

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

BC100009586
Listed 11/28/2023

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase

Other names/site number: Mantua Center District

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 4103-3991 State Route 82, 11670-11755 Mantua Center Road, 11653-11677 Diagonal Road, 11701-11715 School Lane

City or town: Mantua Center State: Ohio County: Portage

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

<p><i>Barbara Towen</i> DSHPO Inventory and Registration</p>	<p>October 23, 2023</p>
<p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p><u>Ohio State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection</u></p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title:</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property – Original Historic District

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

One individually listed Building -- Mantua Center School (NRHP # 13000682)

Number of Resources within Property – Boundary Increase

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	_____	sites
<u>2</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 7

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Silo, Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure

EDUCATION: School

FUNERARY: Cemetery

GOVERNMENT: Town Hall

LANDSCAPE: Public Common

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Silo, Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure

EDUCATION: School

FUNERARY: Cemetery

GOVERNMENT: Town Hall

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LANDSCAPE: Public Common

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival, Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Renaissance Revival

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassical

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, Stone, Metal,

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Mantua Center Historic District is a rural crossroads community located at the intersection of State Route 82 and Mantua Center Road, situated at the geographic center of Mantua Township. (Photo 26) The 1974 Mantua Center Historic District National Register Nomination (NRHP# 74001607) includes six contributing resources which retain historic and architectural integrity:

- (#1) 1836-1840 Greek Revival Mantua Township Town Hall, 4122 St. Rt. 82 (Photos 1,2) ;
- (#2) 1839-1840 Greek Revival Disciples of Christ Church 4118 St. Rt. 82 which was remodeled in 1871-72 and received a 1952 north addition¹ (Photo 4);
- (#3) 1838, 1867 Greek Revival with Gothic Revival influences Methodist Episcopal Church (Civic Center), 11670 Mantua Center Road (Photos 5,7);
- (#4) the 1835 Public Common² flanking Mantua Center Road to the south of St. Rt. 82 (Photo 8);
- (#5) 1835 Greek Revival White-Carlton House, part of an old store operated by Calvin White and moved to 11695 Mantua Center Road in 1860 by Reverend Orvil Blake (Photos 9, 18);³ and,
- (#6) 1840 Greek Revival Baker-Carlton House,⁴ 4103 St. Rt. 82 (Photos 11,18).

¹ *Hilltop Christian Church Centennial Celebration, Historic Homes Tour*, 1989, 12. Available at the Mantua Historical Society, 12.

² Hezekiah Nooney, Sr. donated five acres of land in 1835 for a green, church, town house, and cemetery. Pfaff, Elmer F. Esq. *Rediscovering Mantua Portage County, Ohio*. Mantua: The Mage In Nation Co., Inc., 1985, 111.

³ Pfaff, 111.

⁴ Pfaff, 114.

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Additionally, the 1914 Mantua Center School (#9), 11741 Mantua Center Road is individually listed in the National Register (NRHP # 13000682).

The listed historic district is composed of a central grass lawn Public Common (#4) with mature trees and predominantly Greek Revival style public, private, and religious buildings constructed between 1835-40. The period of significance spans from 1835 to 1895. A 2013-2014 Mantua Veterans Memorial was added at the northeast central portion of the Public Common (#4) with a concrete sidewalk leading to six red brick piers with stone caps resting on a polygon-shaped concrete pad surrounded by flag poles with flags honoring military forces (Photo 8). A Pauline Mantsch (1907-1985)⁵ memorial bench and round stone garden outlined in brick with central flagpole are located in the portion of the Public Common (#4) to the west of Mantua Center Road.

The Boundary Increase further defines Mantua Center and its settlement architecture and landscape during the early years of the Connecticut Western Reserve adding in the homes, farms, cemeteries, and school of early settlers along the main intersecting roads of Mantua Center and St. Rt. 82 at the center of the rural crossroads community. In addition, it expands the period of significance to begin in 1822 to include the earliest 1822-1823 Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17). It further extends the period of significance to 1914 with development of the district to include the Neoclassical style 1914 Mantua Center School (#9), 11741 Mantua Center Road (NRHP# 13000682). The importance of education was reflected with construction of the one-room 1861 Mantua Center District No. 5 School (#16), 11653 Diagonal Road and then the larger 1914 Mantua Center School (#9), 11741 Mantua Center Road (NRHP # 13000682), representing the continuing evolution and modernization of the educational process in the small community and the public architecture defining Mantua Center.

Narrative Description

This Boundary Increase expands the district to include the entirety of central Mantua Center, extending Mantua Center Road to the north of St. Rt 82 ending at Wayne Road, south at Diagonal Road and Eastlawn Cemetery, west along State Route 82 ending with Westlawn Cemetery, to the east ending at the Chester Reed House (#19), 4121 St. Rt 82 and includes School Lane. The Boundary Increase adds schools, cemeteries, residential homes, barns, an outhouse, outbuildings, garages, and a silo located in a rural setting representing historic resources with a Period of Significance of 1822-1914. The Boundary Increase includes 19 contributing buildings, structures, and sites, along with 14 noncontributing buildings, along with

⁵ Pauline Fay Johnston Mantsch was born in Oklahoma and married Mantua resident Hans Mathias Mantsch (1899-1966) in 1930. She is buried in Westlawn cemetery. Ohio Find a Grave Index 1787-2012. Available at *Ancestry.com*.

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7 buildings previously listed on the National Register for a total of 40 resources in the Mantua Center Historic District dating from 1835 to 1914. Noncontributing buildings include 12 garages, barns, and an auxiliary building built outside the period of significance. One noncontributing house was built outside the period of significance. One house was built within the period of significance but determined to be noncontributing due to alterations that obscured the historic character with an addition at the facade.

The following describes the buildings, structures, and sites located within the district and boundary increase. Building numbers correspond to maps showing the Mantua Center Historic District and the Boundary Increase and are contributing unless otherwise indicated.

RESOURCES ADDED WITHIN THE EXISTING HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY:

- 1a Mantua Township Town Hall Boy's Outhouse, 11750 Mantua Center Road (Photos 2, 3)**
The side gabled wood frame 1907 outhouse is composed of wood drop siding with simple corner boards and frieze band below asphalt shingle roof eaves. A stone step marks the south elevation single vertical wood plank entry door leading to the “12-hole” facilities. Wood louvered vents reside at gable ends. The entry door and east elevation central window have simple wood surrounds. The foundation materials are obscured. The building is located to the southeast of the Town Hall, at the eastern border of the parcel.
- 5a White-Carlton House Shed, 11695 Mantua Center Road (Photo 10)**
The front gable wood frame 1901 shed outbuilding is located to the west of the White-Carlton House (#5). The shed (#5a) is composed of wood drop siding with simple corner boards and raking below an asphalt shingle roof. The east elevation two-bay façade is comprised of a vertical wood plank entry door and louvered shuttered opening. The entry door and shuttered opening have simple wood surrounds.
- 6a Baker-Carlton House Garage, 4103 State Route 82**
The front gable 1952⁶ wood frame two-car garage (#6a) is located to the north of the Baker-Carlton House (#6). The garage is composed of painted wood drop siding with contemporary roll-up garage doors and concrete floor. Corner boards frame the building below an asphalt shingle roof. Fixed pane wood frame windows with simple wood surrounds reside at side elevations. The building was constructed outside the period of significance and is noncontributing to the district.

⁶ Portage County Auditor's Office.

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BOUNDARY INCREASE

7 Philip Bump House, 11755 Mantua Center Road (Photos 14, 15) (Historic Images, Figures 17, 18)

The two-story Front Gable 1836⁷ Greek Revival style house with rear one-story wing is comprised of wood clapboard siding framed by corner boards. Wide frieze boards rest below roof eaves with corner returns at gable ends. The symmetrical façade east elevation fronts Mantua Center Road with a central door and flanking 6/6 windows. The 6/6 windows are repeated on the second floor flanked by fixed 6-pane windows at end bays. A single door opening is flanked by single and paired 6/6 and double casement windows comprising the south elevation facing the driveway. The north elevation is composed of an irregular fenestration pattern and west bay single door entry. A rear wing is simpler in design with garage door entry from the west. Simple wood trim adorns windows and doors. A historic image shows that the entablature has been removed from the facade east entry (Historic Images, Figures 17), now composed of a fully glazed storm door with simple wood trim surround and infilled transom. Greek Revival style elements are exhibited in the wide frieze below the roof eaves and cornice returns. Windows and doors are replacement. A ca. 1980 photo shows façade first floor 6/6 windows and second floor central 8/12 windows with flanking 9 pane windows. (Historic Images, Figure 18)

8 Edward Plum House, 11750 Mantua Center Road (Photos 12, 13)

The two-story 1832⁸ Upright and Wing wood frame house (#8) exhibits Greek Revival style influences. The symmetrical upright gable façade displays simple raked cornice molding with slight returns at the gable end. A central single door entry is flanked by 6/6 windows which are repeated at the second floor and north wing. A wrap-around porch supported by square wood columns spans the facade and south elevation. A rear wing with secondary south elevation double door entry extends to the east. The windows and siding are replacement.

The two-story side gable 1994⁹ Auxiliary Building (#8a) resting to the south of the house is composed of clapboard siding. Two first-floor contemporary roll-up garage doors are situated at the north façade elevation. A west single side door entry leads to the second floor with façade paired second-floor hay doors below an asphalt shingle roof. The building was constructed outside of the period of significance and is noncontributing to the district.

⁷ Ling, Adelaide. *Mantua Homecoming 1799-1909*, 45, 56. Available at Mantua Historical Society; Philip Bump House, Century Plaque Application, Mantua Historical Society, 1977.

⁸ Pfaff, 114; Map of Portage County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Matthews and Trainor Publishers, 1857. Library of Congress (Historic Images, Figures 2, 3); U.S. Federal Population Census Records, 1950, 1960. Available at *Ancestry.com*.

⁹ Portage County, Ohio Auditor's Records; the masonry foundation indicates this building may be older.

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**9 Mantua Center School, 11741 Mantua Center Road (NRHP #13000682) (Photo 16)
(Historic Images, Figure 21-22)**

The red brick Neoclassical style 1914 Mantua Center School with 1964 addition is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

10 11730 Mantua Center Road (Photo 17)

The 1996 one-story side gabled house with front facing attached garage is composed of blended beige brick. The recessed front entry is flanked by projecting gable ends with tripartite windows. The house was built outside the period of significance and is noncontributing to the district.

11 11716 Mantua Center Road (Photo 17)

The 1839 one and one-half story house (#11) has been altered with a facade one-story side gabled rectilinear painted brick addition with asymmetrical window and door fenestration. The facade second floor painted clapboard sided gable front with corner returns and paired fixed pane windows is likely a remnant of an earlier Greek Revival design. A red brick interior chimney extends above the asphalt shingle roof. A shed roof, garage addition extends to the rear. The house has been significantly altered with no identifiable Greek Revival characteristics beyond corner returns, making it noncontributing to the district. A 1960 front gable wood frame two-car garage (#11a) is located at the rear northeast corner of the parcel. The garage was built outside the period of significance and is also noncontributing to the district.

12 Danforth Davis House,¹⁰ 4121 State Route 82 (Photos 19, 20)

The two-story 1831 Greek Revival style Upright and Wing type house (#12) with seamless wood shingle siding rests on a stone foundation. Wide frieze boards reside below roof eaves. The Upright asymmetrical three-bay south elevation facade is composed of end bay trabeated entry and flanking 6/1 windows. The 6/1 windows are repeated at the second floor, facade and east elevation one-story Wing. A partial porch supported by classical columns shelters a second entry to the Upright from the one-story Wing. The west elevation exhibits an irregular window fenestration pattern with second-floor frieze window. An asphalt shingle roof composes the main portion of the house and slate shingle covers a rear one-story gabled wing. A ca. 1900 front gable wood frame barn (#12a) with vertical plank siding rests to the north of the house. The facade is composed of paired vertical plank doors with large metal hinges which led to interior stalls and a chicken coop.¹¹ Side elevations display window openings with window frame remnants. The wood frame roof has partially collapsed exposing the trusses.

¹⁰ Combination Atlas Map of Portage County, Ohio. Chicago: L.H. Everts, 1874; Historic Images, Figures 4-6.

¹¹ Ibid.

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13 Eastlawn Cemetery, 11670 Mantua Center Road (Photos 6, 7) (Historic Images, Figure 13, 14)

Eastlawn Cemetery is composed of approximately 0.92 acres enclosed with a contemporary black metal picket fence to the north, south, and east. Masonry piers at the north end support a metal entry gate with overhead cut metal letter banner signage reading “EASTLAWN CEMETERY” marking the cemetery entry. An approximately 48” in height stacked Stone Wall (#13a) constructed by Horace Sizer in 1835 encloses the cemetery to the west. The interior green grass lawn burial area is composed of monuments and memorial stones marking approximately 200 graves dating from 1816 to 1940.¹²

14 11715 School Lane House (Photos 21, 22)

The 1838¹³ Greek Revival painted wood clapboard sided house is composed of a central two-story front gable (hen) with flanking side gabled one-story single bay wings (chick), sometimes referred to as Hen and Chick type. Wide frieze boards rest below roof eaves with a raked cornice at the central gable. The symmetrical facade is anchored by a central entry with flanking shuttered 6/6 windows sheltered by a partial porch supported by classical columns. A single wood panel door entry is located off the south end of the porch. Pairs of shuttered 6/6 windows are repeated at the flanking wings and central second story. Side elevations reveal a rear one – story wing and south addition with bay window. Simple heavy wood trim surrounds windows and doors.

A ca. 1950 front gable two-story two car garage with loft (#14a) resides to the rear west of the house. The garage was built outside the period of significance and is noncontributing to the district. A ca. 1980 wood frame barn (#14b) with stained vertical plank siding, corrugated metal roof, and front and rear canopies is located on the rear north portion of the 6.63 acre parcel. The shed was built outside the period of significance and is noncontributing to the district.

15 11701 School Lane House (Photos 21, 23)

The two-story ca. 1865¹⁴ Upright and Wing type house (#15) rests on a stone foundation. The Upright symmetrical east elevation facade is composed of 6/6 windows flanking a central blended red brick hipped chimney. The one-story Wing is composed of a porch supported by turned wood columns and spindle rail sheltering a first bay single door entry and pair of 6/6 windows. A pair of 8/8 windows reside at the first-floor south elevation. A second lateral

¹² *Portage County, Ohio Cemeteries Vol. III, Mantua Township and Mantua Village (Mantua Station) 1807-1992*. Ravenna: The Portage County Genealogical Society, 1992. Available at Mantua Historical Society; Ling, 43.

¹³ Portage County, Ohio Auditor’s Records.

¹⁴ The house does not appear on the 1857 Map but does appear on the 1874 Map; Map of Portage County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Matthews and Trainor Publishers, 1857. Library of Congress; Combination Atlas Map of Portage County, Ohio. Chicago: L.H. Everts, 1874.

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chimney is centrally placed at the gable end on the north elevation. A one-story gabled wing extends to the rear with enclosed porch on the south elevation and symmetrically placed 6/6 windows on the north elevation. An asphalt shingle roof covers the vinyl sided house. The windows are replacements.

A ca. 1960 side gable two-car garage with man door and attached rear 1974 pole barn (#15a) rests to the rear west of the house. The building was constructed outside the period of significance and is noncontributing to the district.

16

Mantua Center District No. 5 School, 11653 Diagonal Road (Photos 24, 25) (Historic Images, Figures 13, 14, 16)

The one-story 1861¹⁵ side gabled former one-room schoolhouse had terminated use as a school with construction of the 1914 Mantua Center School (#9). The school was moved from the southwest corner of the public green across Diagonal Road and converted for use as a residential dwelling.¹⁶ The house retains the Greek Revival form, wide roof eaves, and raking cornice. Historic images show the original front gable Greek Revival school with trabeated entry facing north towards Diagonal Road. Shuttered 6/9 windows compose three bays on the east and west side elevations, with two window bays at the rear south elevation providing light to the interior space throughout the school day. A simple pedimented cupola housed the school bell on the roof above the entry door (Historic Images, Figures 13, 14, 16). The house has been reoriented onto a masonry block foundation with the four bay façade facing Mantua Center Road including an off-center single door entry with pedimented stoop. The window fenestration has been reduced in size. A shed roof dormer with trio of windows has been added at the facade and a single window at the south side gable end to facilitate use of the second story. The former front gable trabeated entry has been replaced by a red brick hipped lateral chimney. The clapboard siding has been covered over with painted shingle siding. A small one-story hipped roof addition with bay window has been added to the east elevation. Although some changes have occurred to the building over time, the building retains architectural features identified in historic images to retain integrity including side gable form along with wide frieze boards resting below roof eaves with a raked cornice. Additionally, the resource serves as a representation of the shift in Mantua Center to accommodate more residents and as a result, more students – resulting in the closing of the original school house when the larger 1914 school was opened.

A ca. 1940 side gable two-car CMU garage with corrugate metal roof (#16a) rests to the rear east of the house with entry from Diagonal Road. A ca. 1999 pole barn (#16b) rests to the south of

¹⁵ Pfaff, 113.

¹⁶ Mantua Historical Society Archives, *The Record Courier*; Mantua Center School (NRHP # 13000682).

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the house and rear of the garage. Both buildings were constructed outside the period of significance and are noncontributing to the district.

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Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House, 11677 Diagonal Road (Photos 26, 27) (Historic Images, Figure 19)

The two-story 1822-23¹⁷ Classic I-House rests on a stone foundation. The 5-bay symmetrical east façade elevation has an enclosed flat roof full-width front porch with lattice apron which conceals the historic central entry. Windows of 2/2 compose second-floor bays. The north and south elevations display pairs of symmetrical 2/2 windows on the first and second floors, as shown in a historic image of the south elevation (Historic Images, Figure 19). A one-story rear ell gabled wing extends to the west with a single door entry sheltered by a partial porch supported by turned columns. A lateral chimney may have been removed from the north side elevation. The south elevation has been altered with stairs leading to a second floor shed roof doghouse entry supported by square columns. Overall siding and frieze details are concealed by replacement siding. A shed roof addition with CMU foundation has been added to the south. Although changes have occurred to the building over time, the building retains architectural features identified in historic images to retain integrity including side gable roof, five bay façade with central entry, two-bay width, and rear ell addition.

A two-story 1901 wood frame front gable painted clapboard sided barn (#17a) with lean-to one-story wing is located to the south of the house. The two-story façade is composed of a first-floor vertical plank sliding barn door and second-floor vertical plank hay door. A front gable wood frame painted clapboard sided 1901 shed outbuilding with corrugated metal roof (#17b) is located just to the north of the barn. The east elevation façade is comprised of a vertical wood plank entry door with simple wood surround.

18

Dr. Osmon Ferris House, 3998 State Route 82 (Photo 28)

The two-story ca. 1848¹⁸ Front Gable wood frame house¹⁹ rests on a stone foundation. The symmetrical façade with wide frieze band and raking cornice has been maintained. First-floor shuttered fixed pane windows with 2/2 double hung sidelights and second-floor shuttered 1/1 windows with flanking smaller 1/1 windows compose façade bays. A gabled addition has been added to the rear of the house with a side porch covering a secondary entry. The house has vinyl siding and replacement windows.

¹⁷ Pfaff, 113: Weber, MaryAnn. *History of 11677 Diagonal Road, Mantua Center*, 10 October 2022.

¹⁸ The house is shown adjacent to the east of the Chester Reed House on the 1857 map.¹⁸ Dr. Ferris married Martha Reed Ferris in 1848 and likely built the house around the same time. He lost his first wife while living in Shalersville.

¹⁹ "Pioneer Family Sells Homestead," *Mantua Record*, 20 July 1939. Lynn Harvey, Mantua Center History Collection.

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A one-story side gabled wood frame ca. 1950 two-car garage (#18a) and ca. 1950 front gabled one-car garage (#18b) are located to the rear west of the house. Both buildings were built outside the period of significance and are noncontributing to the district.

19 Chester Reed House, 3952 State Route 82 (Photos 29, 30) (Historic Images, Figure 20)

The two-story 1824²⁰ wood frame clapboard sided Greek Revival Classic I-House rests on a stone foundation. The façade 5-bay symmetrical north elevation is composed of first-floor 1/1 windows flanking a central trabeated single door entry. The 1/1 windows are repeated on the second floor. The east and west side elevations display pairs of symmetrical 2/2 windows on the first and second floors with one-story shed roof porch on the east elevation. Corner returns complete side elevation gable ends. A central interior chimney projects from the asphalt shingle roof. A one-story gabled wing with single door entry is located at the rear. A Historic Image reveals window shutters have been removed (Historic Images, Figure 20). A one-story gabled wing has been added to the rear south. A 1901 silo (#19a) is located to the east of the house.

A one-story side gabled wood frame 1985 two-car garage (#19b) is located to the rear of the house with a second one-story side gabled wood frame 1998 garage (#19c) located to the rear east of the house. Both buildings were built outside the period of significance and are noncontributing to the district.

20 Westlawn Cemetery, 3991 State Route 82 (Photos 31, 32)

Westlawn Cemetery was laid out in 1854²¹ and is composed of 4.512 acres on Portage County parcel 23-021-00-00-019-000. A cut metal letter banner sign reading “WESTLAWN CEMETERY” supported by decorative metal pickets marks the cemetery entry at the east end. The interior green grass lawn burial area with large mature trees is composed of monuments and memorial stones marking approximately 3,385 graves.²² A U-shaped looping gravel road provides access to each row of the cemetery. The cemetery was expanded in 1990²³ to include 13.796 acres on Portage County parcel 23-021-00-00-018-000, which is not included in the boundaries of this nomination.

A rectangular plan hand-tooled Berea sandstone Second Renaissance Revival style 1880 Mausoleum, also known as the Cemetery Vault (#20a), was constructed by F. M. Townsend of Kent, Ohio. The mausoleum is located about half-way down the eastern most drive. A central

²⁰ Pfaff, 113; Weber, MaryAnn.

²¹ *Portage County, Ohio Cemeteries Vol. III, Mantua Township and Mantua Village (Mantua Station) 1807-1992*. Ravenna: The Portage County Genealogical Society, 1992. Available at Mantua Historical Society.

²² Vigil, Vicki Blum. *Cemeteries of Northeast Ohio*. Cleveland: Gray & Company, Publishers, 2007, 273.

²³ Portage County Auditor’s Office.

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arch with keystone “A.D 1880” and decorative surround marks the mausoleum opening secured by a decorative wrought iron picket gate. A raised carved pediment rests on the flat roof above the opening. The double mausoleum walls are 18” thick. The inside measurements are 15 feet in length, 8 feet in width, and 8 feet in height having the capacity for 16 coffins placed on swinging support fastened to the walls.²⁴

INTEGRITY

The Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase maintains the historic architectural integrity of the Mantua Center Historic District as a rural crossroads township center by expanding the district to include further examples of architecture, expressing the building traditions of the New England pioneers. It expands the period of significance to begin in 1822 to include the earliest houses adding representative examples of the Classic I-House, and Greek Revival style Hen and Chick, Upright and Wing, and Front Gable type domestic architecture. Integrity of Design is exhibited in the architectural elements of the contributing historic buildings, structures, and sites retaining the Greek Revival style historic fabric, Materials, and Craftsmanship. They further represent the level of care taken to preserve wood buildings and structures that exhibit growth over nearly 200 years. The Boundary Increase includes the 1822-23 Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17) and 1824 Chester Reed House (#19) as two examples of the Classic I-House. Both houses exhibit Classic I-House character defining features including the side gable roof, five-bay façade with central entry, two-bay width, and rear ell additions. Greek Revival style types are demonstrated with the 1838 11715 School Lane House (#14) as an excellent example of a Hen and Chick type house. The Greek Revival style Upright and Wing type is exhibited in two houses. The 1831 Danforth Davis House (#12) demonstrates the style and type with Upright and Wing form, wide frieze boards below roof eaves, and a façade trabeated entry characteristic of the style. The 1832 Edward Plum House, (#7) Upright and Wing exhibits Greek Revival style influences. The symmetrical upright gable façade displays simple raked cornice molding with slight returns at the gable end. The ca. 1865 11701 School Lane House (#15) is an Upright and Wing type house with Upright symmetrical east elevation facade and one-story Wing with porch and single door entry. The one-and-one-half-story Front Gable Greek Revival style 1836 Philip Bump House (#7) is comprised of wood clapboard siding framed by corner boards. Wide frieze boards rest below roof eaves with corner returns at gable ends demonstrating Greek Revival style elements. The 1816 Eastlawn Cemetery (#13) with 1835 Stone Wall (#13a) and 1854 Westlawn Cemetery (#20) with 1880 Mausoleum (#20a) provide an important physical representation of the history of Mantua Center. The 1861 Mantua Center District No. 5 School (#16) and 1914 Mantua Center School (#9) represent the continuing evolution of the educational process in the small rural community of Mantua Center

²⁴ *The Democratic Press*, 5 August 1880. Harvey, Lynn. Mantua Center History Collection.

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from mid-nineteenth century one-room wood frame schoolhouse to modern early twentieth century fireproof brick facility extending the period of significance to 1914.

The buildings, structures, and sites remain in their historic Location and the architectural language retains the historic Feeling and Association as noted in historic images of the buildings in their original historic Setting in relation to the compilation of historic resources within the rural early nineteenth century crossroads township of Mantua Center.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1822-1914

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Morris, Amos, builder

Reed, Lewis, builder

Cahill, Paul T., architect

Loomis, Seymour & Co., builder

Townsend, F.M., builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase is significant under Criterion C in Architecture as presented in the 1974 Mantua Center Historic District National Register Nomination (NRHP# 74001607) as a remarkably intact example of an early nineteenth century rural crossroads township community and the most intact representation of this architecturally distinct town settlement example in Portage County. The district contains many of the essential ingredients of the life of the period – community, education, religious, and residential while reflecting architectural building types, styles, and landscape characteristics of New England towns from which the earliest settlers migrated. The present district includes a public common, town hall, two churches, and two houses, all exhibiting the Greek Revival style. The Boundary Increase expands the District to include further examples of residential Greek Revival, Upright and Wing, Classic I-House, public Neoclassical architecture, and two cemetery landscapes. The Boundary Increase further reflects the architecture of early settlement of the Connecticut Western Reserve by first and second generations of Mantua Center pioneers, as well as the physical development of the crossroads township center with central core of community buildings providing basic needs and services to surrounding rural homesteads. Mantua Center School (NRHP# 13000682) is a contributing building to the historic district representing the continuing educational architecture of the community and surrounding township during the early twentieth century period of school centralization. The school building and the 1900s boy's outhouse associated with the Town Hall were the last public buildings constructed in Mantua Center and represent the use of the existing town center's public buildings for educational purposes, as they had been periodically during the nineteenth century, this time serving as the consolidated school for the township that was then followed by the construction of the 1914 school building. The period of significance of the Mantua Center Historic District of 1835-1895 is expanded to 1822-1914 to include the earliest 1822-1823 Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17) and construction of the 1914 Mantua Center School (#9).

Narrative Statement of Significance

National Register Criterion C: Significance in Architecture, Landscape

In his article "The Western Reserve: How it Played an Important Part in the History of Ohio and the Nation," F.E. Hutchins described the architectural and landscape distinctiveness defining the predominantly New England settlements in the Western Reserve that developed during the first quarter of the nineteenth century in Ohio:

“...so many of our towns and villages [are] like their proto-types of New England. In many of our villages I can almost see my native town, New Milford, Connecticut, with its white

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churches, schoolhouse, stores, shops and tavern fronting on the village green.”²⁵

Settlement of the Connecticut Western Reserve brought pioneer farmers and their New England building traditions to Ohio during the first part of the nineteenth century. Western Reserve rural crossroads communities became situated at the intersection of primary roads at township centers, and often reflected characteristics of New England towns. A central public green or common served as a unifying element with religious, institutional, public, or commercial buildings on the perimeter serving surrounding agriculturally based residential homesteads.²⁶

The New England settlers transferred their culture to the Western Reserve where their architectural legacy remains visible through the retention of public commons defining the town center and the location of the community’s important public buildings – government building, churches, and schools. The public common and prominent buildings were ringed by residential examples also reflecting the building traditions that migrated from New England and upstate New York. Commonly built house types included the New England version of the simple building form of the Classic I-House with its lateral gable roof, center doorway, 1 or 2 rooms deep plan and often a center chimney. Another common house type is the Upright-and-Wing featuring a 1 ½ or 2-story gable front “upright” with a 1-story attached lateral gable wing. A variation that is not as often seen as the Upright-and-Wing is the house type featuring the multi-story gable front section flanked on both sides by one-story wings, sometimes called a “Hen-and-Chick” house type. In these rural crossroads centers these house types tend to dominate and may feature modest Greek Revival style architectural details including gable end cornice eave returns, corner pilasters, classically detailed door surrounds, simple transoms, porch columns, and multi-paned double hung windows.

Mantua Township was the first part of Portage County to be settled in 1798, located in the northwest corner of the county and organized in 1810 with 234 people. Mantua Center is situated at the geographic center of Mantua Township. Twinsburg-Warren Road (State Route 82), Mantua Center Road, Wayne Road, and Diagonal Road all converge in Mantua Center defining it as a rural crossroads township center.²⁷ A central public common, town hall, two churches, two cemeteries, and two schools along with residential homesteads compose the center within a rural setting (Historic Images, Figure 13). The original Mantua Center Historic District nomination supports the significance of the social and public buildings, along with two of the

²⁵ F.E. Hutchins, “The Western Reserve: How it Played and Important Part in the History of Ohio and the Nation,” *Ohio History*, Vol. 7. January 1899, No. 2, 259-273.

²⁶ George, Milton C. “The Settlement of the Connecticut Western Reserve of Ohio,” Ph.D Dissertation, University of Michigan, 1950, 112, 113; Brookfield Center Historic District, Brookfield, Trumbull County, OH (NRHP # 85002922).

²⁷ Pfaff, 114.

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residential homes – with additional discussion of the religious significance associated with the contributing churches (NR Reference #74001607). This nomination supports the crossroads as a “remarkably intact example of an early nineteenth century crossroads township center, containing as it does many of the essential ingredients of the life of the period, community, religious and residential”.²⁸ Additionally, it discusses the significance of the architectural style represented in the district – noting the Greek and Gothic revival influences. The Boundary Increase adds the earliest pioneer houses in Mantua Center to the district with integral examples of the Classic I-House, along with the Greek Revival style demonstrating types including Hen and Chick, Upright and Wing, and Front Gable houses not included in the present district. In addition, the Boundary Increase represents the continuing evolution of public educational architecture in the small rural community of Mantua Center by including the 1861 Mantua Center District No. 5 (#16) one-room schoolhouse to offering modern turn of the twentieth century 1914 Mantua Center School (#9) (NRHP #13000682) facilities, extending the period of significance to 1914. The addition of these educational resources, the two cemeteries, and the residential homes further supports the significance of the Mantua Center Historic District’s reflection of a Western Reserve rural crossroads center – with all the “essential ingredients” of this type of town plan and architectural settlement pattern.

The Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase illustrates this significant architectural settlement pattern seen in the Western Reserve counties of Northeast Ohio, the cross-roads township center defined by a public common with public buildings and surrounded by residential properties. Mantua Center’s additional landscape features include the early burying ground, adjacent to the churches, and the later nineteenth century cemetery, located at the edge of the settlement. Mantua Center’s significance lies not only in its representation of the character-defining architectural and landscape features of this early settlement type of the rural crossroad township center, but also in its overall intactness that allows it to remain one of a very distinctive few examples that have not experienced later construction and loss of these earliest features. Many towns throughout the Western Reserve retain their public squares and representative examples of early public buildings and residential house types and styles reflecting the New England settlement and building traditions. However, many of these communities have grown and expanded throughout the late nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century, adding architectural styles and building types reflecting these later time periods. Far too many of the early township centers, such as Mantua Center represents, have completely disappeared, eclipsed by other towns and cities in the county, or their early building stock have been replaced by new modern buildings and widened roads. In Portage County the Mantua Center Historic District and Boundary Increase stands out as a significant intact example of the architecture and landscape defining the Western Reserve rural township center.

²⁸ Mantua Center District, Mantua Center, Portage County, OH (NRHP# 74001607).

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The original Mantua Center Historic District nomination supported the significance of the Greek and Gothic Revival styles noted in resources 1-6. The Boundary Increase expands the district to include further examples of styles and types of houses reflecting this time period and location including the earliest Classic I-House, and Greek Revival style Hen and Chick, Upright and Wing, and Front Gable type domestic architecture in Mantua Center.

The endless supply of virgin forest made wood a readily available raw material for house construction. The first New England colonies built primarily linear plan houses with heavy timber frames covered with boards or shingles. They were commonly of the two-story, I-house form. In the early 18th century, these plans were expanded to give interior space, resulting in the one-and-one-half room deep saltbox and Cape Cod forms, which were better adapted to severe New England winters. From these early eighteenth-century house types evolved the mid-eighteenth century, massed-plan I-house that would dominate New England buildings throughout the following century. The house had two room widths and central chimney, although not all Ohio Western Reserve examples include these features.²⁹

The full sequence of changes in building traditions took place in the earliest settled parts of New England including coastal Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. As New Englanders spread northward and westward in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, they tended to build less pretentious folk houses in the same forms as the more fashionable houses being built further east. Settlers from New England first moved westward along the Mohawk corridor of central New York. From there they dominated the Western Reserve area of Ohio and spread beyond into the upper Midwest, where their building traditions became diluted by others from further south.³⁰

The I-House type was popular throughout Ohio from ca. 1820 to 1890. The defining features are the two-story, one-room deep plan that is at least two rooms wide. The side gable is the most common roof form. Facades are symmetrically divided into three to five bays, with most often lateral gable end chimneys, and sometimes central and paired chimney subtypes. I-Houses frequently have one- to two-story front porches and one-two story kitchen ells often built as wing additions. The rear ell frequently includes a back porch. I-Houses rapidly became symbols of economic prosperity in the Midwest rural landscape. The Classic I-House became popular in Ohio and is composed of two rooms over two rooms with a central hallway, center door, and five bay façade. Bilateral symmetry is almost always characteristic of the style because of the central hallway. One to two-story rear kitchen wings are common.³¹

²⁹ McAlester, Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York; Knoff, 2015.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Gordon, Stephen C. *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*. Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1992, 127-28.

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The Boundary Increase includes 1822-23 Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17) and 1824 Chester Reed House (#19) as two good examples of the Classic I-House. Both the Squire and Reed families migrated to the Western Reserve from Massachusetts and Connecticut, respectively, bringing with them their New England building traditions of this basic house form. Each home exhibits Classic I-House character defining features including the side gable roof, five bay façade with central entry, two-bay width, and rear ell additions, but do not include the more typically seen two-room depth or a central chimney. A one-story full width porch has been enclosed on the Squire House. The Reed house also represents the Greek Revival style with symmetrical façade, trabeated entry, wide fascia board, and corner cornice eave returns.

The Greek Revival style dominated American domestic architecture from about 1830 to 1850, with its popularity leading it to be called the National style. Greek Revival style in northern Ohio is most often associated with the Upright and Wing and New England One and a-Half House type architecture.³² Western Reserve architecture closely identifies with the Greek Revival style. Houses included within the Boundary Increase add depth to the variety of Greek Revival architecture of the district demonstrating types including Hen and Chick, Upright and Wing, and Front Gable not included in the present district.

The 1838 11715 School Lane House (#14) is an excellent example of a Greek Revival style Hen and Chick,³³ defined by a two-story central front gable portion of the house (the hen) with flanking wings covering the “chick.” Wide frieze boards resting below roof eaves with a raked cornice at the central gable further accentuate the Greek Revival style.

The Greek Revival style Upright and Wing type is exhibited in three houses within the Boundary Increase. The 1831 Danforth Davis House (#12) demonstrates the style and type with wide frieze boards below roof eaves and a trabeated entry façade characteristic of the style. The 1832 Edward Plum House (#8) also exhibits Upright and Wing Greek Revival style influences. The symmetrical upright gable façade displays simple raked cornice molding with slight returns at the gable end. A wrap-around porch supported by square wood columns spans the I and south elevation as a later alteration. The ca. 1865 11701 School Lane House (#15) is an Upright and Wing type house with upright symmetrical east elevation and one-story wing with porch and single door entry. The one-and-one-half-story Front Gable Greek Revival style 1836 Philip Bump House (#7) is comprised of wood clapboard siding framed by corner boards. Wide frieze boards rest below roof eaves with corner returns at gable ends demonstrating Greek Revival style elements.

³² McAlester, 250; Gordon, 79.

³³ Gordon, 132.

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The 1914 Mantua Center School is designed in the Neoclassical style maintaining the use of classical style exhibited throughout the nineteenth century architecture of community and residential architecture in the historic district.

Comparative Analysis: Other Western Reserve Rural Crossroads Communities

The rural crossroads township center pattern of development occurred in the Western Reserve with communities like Mantua Center. Early settlements often became centrally located within the five-mile square townships at the intersection of primary roads. Agriculturally based homesteads radiated from this central core which provided basic goods and services to the township community. These township centers often physically reflected characteristics of the New England towns that settlers had left behind. The defining characteristic of the New England town is the central public green or common with religious, institutional, public, commercial and/or residential buildings situated at the perimeter, represented in Mantua Center.³⁴

An early example of a Western Reserve rural crossroads township center is Tallmadge in Summit County. The public square was laid out in 1807-09, eight roads radiate to the center of the township and the public square. The public square includes the 1825 Tallmadge Congregational Church and the 1854 Town Hall buildings. Tallmadge can be seen as the prototype for establishing this basic township center plan with central public common containing the important public buildings with township roads converging at the center. The Tallmadge Public Square Historic District (NR#71000652) includes the public square and the two historic public buildings. The district is ringed with modern buildings.

Additional examples of Western Reserve rural crossroads township communities listed on the National Register include Brookfield Center Historic District, Trumbull County (NR#85002922); Fowler Center Historic District, Trumbull County (NRHP #85002921); and Mesopotamia Village District, Trumbull County (NRHP# 74001635). Similar to these other township centers, Mantua Center was preserved but lost out to further growth and development due to the layout of railroads in the 1850s and 1860s which bypassed them. These communities are each located at the intersection of primary roads at the township center and identified by a village green of varying shapes which serves as a unifying element for the surrounding predominantly Greek Revival, Federal and/or Gothic style wood frame buildings. The Mantua Center Historic District is an intact example of an early nineteenth century rural crossroads township community in Portage County. No other similar Portage County examples are listed in the National Register. Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase distinguishes itself from other similar examples in that it has seen very little later development or major construction aside from the last

³⁴ George, Milton C. "The Settlement of the Connecticut Western Reserve of Ohio," Ph.D Dissertation, University of Michigan, 1950,112,113; Brookfield Center Historic District, Brookfield, Trumbull County, OH (NRHP # 85002922).

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public building, the 1914 school building that was added to the center and adds the final phase of the center's historic presence within the township as the location for the early centralization of the township's public schools.

The rural crossroads township community of Brookfield Center is located at the geographic center of Brookfield Township, just north of State Route 82. It is approximately 2.5 miles west of the Pennsylvania border at the intersection of Warren-Sharon Road and State Route 7, with a present day population of 1,375 people.³⁵ The district is composed of a central village green, established in ca. 1823, which now separates the north and southbound lanes of State Route 7. The green serves as a unifying element surrounded by 11 contributing residential, commercial, and religious primarily wood frame buildings exhibiting Greek Revival and Federal style influences. The period of significance spans 100 years of development of the village from 1830 to 1930. A coal mining boom occurred in the area during the 1860s and 1870s in the eastern, southeastern and southwestern parts of the township. Numerous railroad lines were established to serve the coal mines with two trunk lines crossing the western section of the township and the southeastern corner through Masury. Neither of these lines served the township center at Brookfield. Therefore, the original crossroads settlement pattern of Brookfield Center was preserved as the growth and development occurred in other areas of the township served by the rail lines.

The rural crossroads township community of Fowler Center Historic District is located at the geographic center of Fowler Township, at the intersection of State Route 305 and State Route 193 (Youngstown Kingsville Road). It is approximately 7 miles west of the Pennsylvania border with a population of 2,503 people.³⁶ The district is composed of a central village green set aside in 1798 by owner Samuel Fowler of Westfield, Massachusetts. His brother Abner completed the first survey of Fowler Center in 1799. The green characteristically serves as a unifying element surrounded by eight buildings, only two of which are contributing to the district. The period of significance extends from 1830 to 1900. Similar to Brookfield Center, the community retains its rural character and crossroads settlement pattern with growth and development accumulating in relationship to the railroad lines such as Fowler Station to the east.

The rural crossroads township Mesopotamia Village District is located at the geographic center of Mesopotamia township at the intersection of State Route 87 and State Route 534 (Phelps Creek Road) Mesopotamia township is situated at the northwest corner of Trumbull County with a population of 3,220 people.³⁷ The district is composed of a central 1,600 ft. village green

³⁵U.S. Federal Population Census Records, 2020.

³⁶ U.S. Federal Population Census Records, 2020.

³⁷ Ibid.

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running north-south. The green is flanked by pre-Civil War vernacular wood frame houses, some with Greek Revival and Gothic Revival details. The village green characteristically serves as a unifying element for the district composed of 40 houses, three (3) store buildings, a town hall and three (3) church buildings. Similar to Brookfield and Fowler Centers, the community retains its rural character and crossroads settlement pattern. The township likely lost out to growth and development due to the lack of a railroad line.

Historic Context

Historic Settlement and Development of Mantua Center

Settlement of the Western Reserve began with the formation of the Connecticut Land Company in 1795, whose ownership encompassed an estimated three million acres of un-surveyed and undivided Ohio territory spreading 120 miles west of the Pennsylvania state line and south of Lake Erie.³⁸ (Historic Image, Figure 1) The State of Connecticut released the majority of their western land claims by 1786 but retained or “reserved” the Western Reserve land west of the Pennsylvania state line.³⁹ It was not until the signing of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, which removed the threat of Indian attack from the Reserve, that Connecticut was motivated to legislate a plan for the survey and sale of this land. Seven directors were chosen to manage the newly formed Connecticut Land Company including Moses Cleaveland, Oliver Phelps, Samuel Johnson, Ephriam Kirby, Samuel Mather Jr., Roger Newberry, and Henry Champion, II.⁴⁰ Surveyors and agents were then hired to set out and explore the new Connecticut Western Reserve territory dividing it into townships and ranges ready for sale.⁴¹ Assigned to the task, Moses Cleaveland as a Director and Superintendent for the Connecticut Land Company, led the first surveying party as they headed west in 1796 with the goal of making it to the Cuyahoga River to set up the first city in the Reserve.⁴² Moses Cleaveland and his party arrived at the mouth of the Cuyahoga at Lake Erie on July 22, 1796.⁴³ From there, the City of Cleveland was founded with the remainder of the Western Reserve divided into five-mile square townships and ranges of land in preparation for sale.

Settlement of the Reserve lands did not proceed in an organized fashion, largely because of the numerous and diverse investor land holdings, and scattered sales throughout the Reserve.⁴⁴

³⁸ Hatcher, Harlan. *The Western Reserve The Story of New Connecticut in Ohio*. Kent: The Kent State University Press, 1991, 14-15, 20, 56.

³⁹ Hatcher 10-11, 56.

⁴⁰ Whittlesey, Col. Charles. *Early History of Cleveland, Ohio*. Cleveland: Fairbanks, Benedict & Co., Printers, 1867, 168; Hatcher, 14-15.

⁴¹ Hatcher, 22.

⁴² Hatcher, 25.

⁴³ The City of Cleveland was founded with the name “Cleaveland” after Moses Cleaveland. The “a” was later dropped from the name. Van Tassel, David R. and Grabowski, John J. eds. “Moses Cleaveland,” *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996. Also available at www.ech.case.edu.

⁴⁴ Hatcher, 49.

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Entire townships were purchased by lottery, with a numbered certificate picked from a box designating specific townships. Henry Howe in his *Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio* relays the story of hardships among the early settlers of the Reserve:

The settlement of the Reserve commenced in a manner somewhat peculiar. Instead of beginning on one side of the county, and progressing gradually into the interior, as had usually been done in similar cases, the proprietors of the Reserve, being governed by different and separate views, began their improvements wherever their individual interests led them. Hence we find many of the first settlers immured in a dense forest, fifteen or twenty miles or more from the abode of any white inhabitants. In consequence of their scattered situation, journeys were sometimes performed of twenty or fifty miles for the sole purpose of having the staple of an ox-yoke mended, or some other mechanical job, in itself trifling, but absolutely essential for the successful prosecution of business... The want of mills to grind the first harvests was in itself a great evil. Prior to the year 1800 many families used a small handmill, properly called a *sweat-mill*, which took the hard labor of two hours to supply flour enough for one person a single day... The difficulties of procuring subsistence for a family, in such circumstances, must be obvious.⁴⁵

Historian Harlan Hatcher further describes the pattern of settlement,

We sweep our eyes over the 3,000,000 acres, across the 120-mile stretch of wilderness; we see the short rivers running down to the lake as the chief highways into the land; we see Indian trails crossing it; and we see these few hundred families set down miles apart in little oases hacked out of the woods in scattered townships, isolated, lonely, trying in many instances desperately to keep alive and advance the station of themselves and their children.⁴⁶

During the early years of the nineteenth century, the Reserve was advertised as “the fabled region of the West,” “the garden of America”, and “an earthly Paradise, where everything which is considered a luxury, might be had almost without care, labour or exertion.”⁴⁷ As stated by Hatcher, “it was not surprising that Connecticut men, looking out on their thin soil with glacial boulders piled thick upon it, and the snows of the long winters drifting up to the roofs of their cabins, should jump lightly in imagination to the fertile level ground of the Reserve with its reputed fat loam and its salubrious climate.”⁴⁸

It was reported that after closure of the War of 1812 and a particularly harsh New England winter of 1816-1817, by the summer of 1817, a “stampede towards the Reserve hits Connecticut,” as one of the largest and most homogeneous mass migrations in American

⁴⁵ Howe, Henry. *Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio*. Vol. I. Norwalk, Ohio: The Lansing Printing Company, Public Printers, 1896, 682, 683.

⁴⁶ Harlan, 56.

⁴⁷ Hatcher, 56-58.

⁴⁸ Hatcher, 58.

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history.⁴⁹ Two routes led from New England to the Reserve with some traveling by way of the Mohawk Valley, crossing New York to Buffalo and entering Ohio by boat, making their way over the land trail through Erie to the city of Conneaut and down the town lines to their chosen place of settlement. Others crossed Pennsylvania, climbed the mountains and came down to Pittsburgh, following the pack train trails across Youngstown and into the Reserve from the southeast.⁵⁰ Those who could afford a horse and covered wagon loaded it with all their personal effects and traveled in relative luxury, with often a father, mother, and children, from six to up to a dozen, setting out. Others traveled by oxcarts, walking through deep wagon ruts and mudholes, up steep mountainsides and down slopes. Samuel Goodrich, who saw the trek of 1817, wrote:

In several instances I saw families on foot - the father and boys taking turns in dragging along an improvised hand-wagon, loaded with the wreck of the household goods - occasionally giving the mother and baby a ride. Many of these persons were in a state of poverty, and begged their way as they went. Some died before they reached the expected Canaan; many perished after their arrival, from fatigue and privation; and others, from the fever and ague, which was then certain to attack the new settlers.⁵¹

After arrival, settlers endured relative isolation and slow development over the following three decades suffering from ill health, lack of trade routes, markets, and cash with no consuming public in the Reserve to absorb local farm products. Subsistence farming formed the foundation of the fledgling economy, with little exchange of goods because everyone produced the same products - chiefly grain, pork, and cheese. In addition, the lack of roads, markets, and money further strangled the struggling economy.⁵²

Pioneer farmers brought with them the farming methods they inherited from their forefathers in New England. Pioneer farmers utilized a minimum of farm implements and performed much of their work by hand. It was not until the late 1830s and 1840s that Cyrus McCormick and Obed Hussey introduced improved reapers and mowers, and none were sold in Ohio until the mid-1840s. The first steel plow, which required one man and a team of horses to operate, was not invented by John Deere until 1837. Prior to this, farmers used wooden mold-board plows, which called for three teams of oxen and two men to pull. During the pioneer period, seeds were sown by hand, hay was cut with a scythe, and grain was cut with a cradle or a sickle and then bound by hand. Farmers had few livestock at first, because they were difficult to transport over the primitive roads from the East. Dairying became one of the major productions. At first, cheese was hand-made on the farm with cheese hoops, and butter was made at home in churns. Milk

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Hatcher, 58-59.

⁵¹ Hatcher, 59-60.

⁵² Hatcher, 62, 73.

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was not a major product during the pioneer period because it soured too quickly on the slow wagon trip to market; butter and cheese had a longer life expectancy in these days before railroads and refrigeration.⁵³ The first generation and early settlement years of 1800-1830 were rugged.

Mantua Township composes Township 5 N, Range 8 W of the Connecticut Western Reserve. Mantua was the first part of Portage County to be settled in 1798, located in northwest corner of the county and organized in 1810 with 234 people. Historian, Adelaide Ling, notes that “the first settlers of southwest Mantua were nearly all young unmarried men, each bringing his stock of goods in a bundle he carried over his shoulder.”⁵⁴ The first settler to Mantua Township was Abraham Honey, who arrived in the fall of 1798 and built a log hut marking the first known white settlement in the township.⁵⁵ Mantua Township followed the Western Reserve rural crossroad township community pattern of development. Mantua Center became situated at the geographic center of Mantua Township with all east, west, north, and south roads traveling through it including Mantua Center Road, Wayne & Diagonal Roads, and Twinsburg Warren State Route 82.⁵⁶ In 1802, construction of the road from Warren to Cleveland (State Route 82), which ran through the center of Hiram and Mantua Townships, was commenced.⁵⁷ In 1807, Portage County was formed from Trumbull.⁵⁸ In the 1820s and 1830s, Mantua Township was composed of resident farmers. Businesses included a distillery, glass factory, tannery, and a mill - all built along the banks of the Cuyahoga River and its tributaries which ran through the township.

As the rural crossroads center of Mantua Township, Mantua Center came to provide early community basic needs and services including a Town Hall, churches, cemetery, and businesses as the central core serving the surrounding rural township community. By the 1840s, Mantua Corners (also known as Merrifield Corners), situated one mile to the east of Mantua Center, was becoming more populated because of its location on the north-south road from Painesville to Ravenna, the county seat.⁵⁹ By the 1860s, Mantua Station, now known as Mantua Village and located approximately three miles to the southeast of Mantua Center, experienced dramatic growth as a railroad station with the coming of the Ohio & Erie railroad through the southern part of the township in 1856. Mantua Station was incorporated as Mantua Village in 1898 (Mantua Village Historic District, NR#74001606). It became the largest town in the township,

⁵³ Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley MPS (NRHP #64500474).

⁵⁴ Ling, 36.

⁵⁵ Ling, 22

⁵⁶ Pfaff, 114.

⁵⁷ Brown, Robert C. J.E. Norris. *History of Portage County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co, 1885, 285

⁵⁸ Howe, 432.

⁵⁹ Mantua Center School, Mantua Center, Portage County, OH (NRHP# 13000682)

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developing its school system separate from the rest of the township.⁶⁰ Unlike this, Mantua Center remained a farming community when it was bypassed by the proposed Clinton Air Line railroad which could not raise the money for construction. They had competed with the Cleveland & Mahoning Valley railroad which had been completed in the spring of 1856 running through Mantua Station shifting the core of the township to what would become Mantua Village.⁶¹ (Historic Images, Figures 2,12) It was not until 1879 that Mantua Center Road was extended north from Mantua Center to connect with Auburn Township, Geauga County.⁶² (Historic Images, Figure 8) Similar to Brookfield Center, Fowler Center and Mesopotamia, Mantua Center was bypassed by the railroads and remained a self-sufficient, rural community.

The population of Mantua Township remained fairly consistent through the years of the nineteenth century with 1,187 people in 1840 and 1,150 by 1880⁶³; its population in 2021 was 4,621.⁶⁴ The homes of early Mantua Center families remain in the rural crossroads community setting with central core and surrounding homesteads. The Boundary Increase adds the earliest pioneer houses in Mantua Center including the 1822-23 Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17), 11677 Diagonal Road and 1824 Chester Reed House (#19), 3952 State Route 82. These houses are indicative of the exploration and settlement of the Western Reserve, represented by their migration to Mantua Center and family establishment to the small crossroads community. Much of these residential homes radiate from the central core of Mantua Center, providing easy access to the needed community buildings.

Pioneer Families of Mantua Center

Pioneer families to Mantua Center within the Boundary Increase included doctors, farmers, a blacksmith and peddler, settling the area following their migration to the area. In 1810, Dr. Ezekiel Squire (1781-1822)⁶⁵ came to the Western Reserve from Massachusetts to Aurora where he established a medical practice serving the north part of Portage County. Five years later in 1815, he purchased 60 acres of land on Lots 21 and 22 in Mantua Center from James Nooney, Jr. of Chester, Massachusetts.⁶⁶ Construction of the 1822-23 Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17), 11677 Diagonal Road was commenced by Dr. Ezekiel Squire in 1822 and completed after his death in the following year by his heirs. It later became the home of his son Dr. Andrew J. Squire (1815-1897).⁶⁷ Dr. Ezekiel Squire was the first physician in Mantua

⁶⁰ Mantua Center School, Mantua Center, Portage County, OH (NRHP# 13000682)

⁶¹ Pfaff, 114.

⁶² Portage County Survey of north portion of Mantua Center Road connecting to Auburn Township, 1879. Harvey, Lynn. Mantua Center History Collection.

⁶³ Howe, 432.

⁶⁴ U.S. Population Census.

⁶⁵ U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current.

⁶⁶ Weber, MaryAnn.

⁶⁷ Harvey, Lynn. Mantua Center History Collection.

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Township.⁶⁸ Dr. Andrew J. Squire continued his legacy and established a medical practice in Mantua until relocating to Hiram in 1863.⁶⁹ His wife Martha Wilmot Squire (1829-1897) was the daughter of pioneers Ella and Lucretia Wilmot.⁷⁰ Ella Wilmot arrived with his wife Lucretia Blair to the Western Reserve in 1804 from Cheshire, Connecticut, building a log house in 1812 and later a frame home in 1823 in Mantua Township, where Martha Wilmot was born in 1823.⁷¹ Dr. A.J. and Martha Squire's son, attorney Andrew Squire, would become a founding and senior member of the law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey in Cleveland.⁷² The property was sold to Hannah Bard in 1864. In 1872, she deeded the property to the Mantua Methodist Episcopal Church (#3) for use as a parsonage "to be held in trust kept and maintained as a place of residence for use and occupancy of the [traveling] preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church"⁷³ Cheney J. Moore (son of Dr. Jason Moore) was a preacher at the church and appears to have gained control of the house and property in 1873. In 1873, Cheney Moore transferred the property to Henry L. Moore. The house remained in the Moore family until 1938.⁷⁴

The 1824 Chester Reed House (#19), 3952 State Route 82, was home to pioneer farmer⁷⁵ Chester Reed (1787-1856). In 1815, Chester Reed left his home in West Granby, Connecticut, with his wife and four children, the eldest of which was six years old, and headed for the Connecticut Western Reserve. They traveled with several families and six ox teams for a six-week journey arriving first in Hudson. Shortly thereafter, Chester Reed moved to Mantua Center where he built a log house and cleared his farm "near the intersection of the Diagonal Road from Mantua Center with the State Road."⁷⁶ His eldest daughter Malissa died on April 22, 1816, and was the first to be buried in Eastlawn Cemetery (#13), with Chester following 40 years later in 1856.⁷⁷ The Eastlawn cemetery plat was surveyed on the day of Malissa's funeral. In 1824, Chester Reed built his home which remains standing on the same site as his log hut.⁷⁸

Recounting the day,

The raising of the [Chester Reed] house was considered a great event. I think every man in the township was invited to come and lend a helping hand. All that were invited were promptly on hand, and many of them brought their wives with them to have a good time and see the frame go up...All the finishings of this house were made by hand, and in those days the doors and windows were

⁶⁸ Pfaff, 44.

⁶⁹ *Portage County Republican Democrat*, 15 April 1863. Harvey, Lynn. Mantua Center History Collection.

⁷⁰ Wilmot Family Genealogy, Fort Wayne, Allen County IN. Harvey, Lynn. Mantua Center History Collection.

⁷¹ Ling, 33.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Weber, MaryAnn.

⁷⁴ Weber, MaryAnn.

⁷⁵ U.S. Federal Population Census Records, 1850. Available at *Ancestry.com*.

⁷⁶ Ling, 43.

⁷⁷ U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

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considered a marvelous piece of workmanship. Plastered walls and brick fireplace were referred to as a piece of extravagance.

By 1857, farmer Lorenzo Chapin (1798-1875) owned the Reed house along with 57 acres surrounding the house and another 19 acres across the street. Lorenzo Chapin came to Ohio in 1814 from Leyden, Massachusetts, with his wife Maria Kent.⁷⁹ His daughter Harriett Chapin (1833-1910) married farmer Rodolphus Ladd (1830-1908). By 1874 they resided in the house where they continued live until at least 1900.⁸⁰

The ca. 1848 Dr. Osmon Ferris House (#18), 3998 State Route 82, is located adjacent to the east of the Chester Reed House.⁸¹ Mariah Reed (1821-1898) was the daughter of Chester Reed⁸² and became the second wife of Dr. Osmon Ferris in 1848.⁸³ Dr. Ferris (1819-1884) was born in Shalersville and worked as a local physician.⁸⁴ He likely built the house around the time of his marriage to Martha Reed in 1848.

The 1831 Danforth Davis House (#12), 4121 State Route 82 was home to farmer Danforth Davis (1788-1864). He migrated to the Western Reserve from Massachusetts sometime between 1840 and 1850.⁸⁵ He married his wife Lydia Mellish in Boston, MA, in 1824.⁸⁶

The 1832 Edward Plum House (#8), 11750 Mantua Center Road, was home to blacksmith Edward Plum (1824-1907), his son Franklin (1849-1915), and second wife Sarah Pierce Plum (1830-1899) whom he married in 1855.⁸⁷ He may have acquired the property during his first marriage in 1847 to Lucinda Bump Plum (1831-1851), the daughter of Philip Bump, whose family owned the house across the street and adjacent land in the immediate area.⁸⁸ A 1900 Mantua Center Map shows his 1856 blacksmith shop situated across Mantua Center Road on the

⁷⁹ Ling, 44

⁸⁰ Map of Portage County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Matthews and Trainor Publishers, 1857. Library of Congress; Combination Atlas Map of Portage County, Ohio. Chicago: L.H. Everts, 1874; Atlas of Portage County, Ohio. Cleveland: H.B. Stranahan & Co., 1900. Mantua Historical Society; U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current.

⁸¹ Map of Portage County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Matthews and Trainor Publishers, 1857. Library of Congress.

⁸² Ling, 44.

⁸³ Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993. Available at *Ancestry.com*; U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current.

⁸⁴ U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current; U.S. Federal Population Census Records, 1860, 1870, 1880.

⁸⁵ U.S. Federal Population Census Records 1840, 1850.

⁸⁶ *Columbian Centinel*, 10 March 1824. Available at *Ancestry.com*; U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current.

⁸⁷ In 1850, Edward & wife Lucinda Plum resided in Aurora, OH. In 1860, Edward & wife Sarah Plum resided in Mantua Township, OH. An 1857 Map of Mantua Township shows a house on the property; U.S. Federal Population Census Records 1850, 1860; Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993; Map of Portage County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Matthews and Trainor Publishers, 1857. Library of Congress.

⁸⁸ Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993. Available at *Ancestry.com*; Ohio Find a Grave Index 1787-2012; Ling, 45.

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site of what is now the Mantua Center School, which he operated until 1899.⁸⁹ (Historic Images, Figures 9-11) After the death of Edward in 1907, his son Franklin farmed the property, living there with his wife Lydia, daughter Thalia L. Plum Tinker, and Thalia's husband Wade Hampton Tinker.⁹⁰ Franklin died in 1915 leaving Thalia L. Tinker (1879-1925) and Wade Tinker (1882-1950) to inherit the property.⁹¹ The Plum and Tinker families were descendants of early Connecticut Western Reserve settlement families from New England. Frederick Plum (1802-1883)⁹² was born in Chester, Massachusetts, and arrived in Aurora Township (Streetsboro) in 1827, marrying Melissa Wait in 1829. Edward Plum was one of their 13 children. He left Aurora and moved to Mantua Township after the death of his first wife Lucinda Bump Plum in 1851.⁹³ A portrait of Frederick Plum is featured in the *History of Portage County, Ohio 1885*.⁹⁴ Horace Tinker (1824-1912) (grandfather to Wade Hampton Tinker) was born in 1824 in Kingsville, Ashtabula County, to parents who had migrated from Massachusetts. Horace Tinker came to own a substantial farm on Lot 8 in Mantua Township which is pictured in the 1874 Portage County Atlas Map (Historic Images, Figures 4-6).

The Bump family arrived at the Western Reserve in 1822 "with one horse and wagon to bring their household effects seven hundred miles, traveling in the wintertime when the ground was frozen, reaching here in February."⁹⁵ Philip Bump (1783-1864) was born in Wareham, Mass. His wife, Patience Tower Bump (1788-1875) was born in Rhode Island, where they married in 1808. The 1836 Philip Bump House (#7), 11755 Mantua Center Road became their home. His occupation was listed as "Pedlar", or peddler, in the retail trade industry.⁹⁶

Many of these earliest settlers to Mantua are buried at Eastlawn Cemetery (#13), 11670 Mantua Center Road including Chester Reed and his daughter Malissa, Ezekiel Squire and wife Clarissa, Chester and wife Hester Reed, Danforth Davis, Lorenzo Chapin and daughter Harriett Chapin Ladd, and Philip and Patience Bump. Eastlawn Cemetery was given to the Township by Hezekiah Nooney Sr. in 1835, along with land for the Methodist Episcopal Church (#3), Public Commons (#4) and Mantua Township Town Hall (#1). The first known burial of Malissa Reed

⁸⁹ Atlas of Portage County, Ohio. Cleveland: H.B. Stranahan & Co., 1900. Mantua Historical Society; Ling, 57.

⁹⁰ U.S. Federal Population Census Records 1910.

⁹¹ U.S. Federal Population Census Records 1910; Portage County Plat Book, 1924. Ohio History Connection Historic Atlases.

⁹² U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current.

⁹³ Brown, Robert C. J.E. Norris *History of Portage County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885, Vol. 2, 486.

⁹⁴ Brown, 487.

⁹⁵ Ling, 46.

⁹⁶ U.S. Federal Population Census Records, 1850, 1860.

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was in 1816 and the last was Martha Wilcox in 1940. There are approximately 200 people buried in the cemetery.⁹⁷

Others are buried at Westlawn Cemetery (#20), 3991 State Route 82, including Mariah & Dr. Osmon & Mariah Ferris, Rodolphus Ladd, and Edward Plum. Westlawn Cemetery was laid out in 1854 being purchased by the township trustees from Dr. Andrew J. Squire. An addition was added to the north side in 1874 and another on the west side in 1908, providing the needed space for additional burial plots as the population grew and early settlers began to pass away.⁹⁸ The contributing Berea sandstone Second Renaissance Revival style 1880 Mausoleum (#20a) was constructed by F.M. Townsend of Kent, Ohio, for the township at a cost of \$1,450.00.⁹⁹

Schools

The 1787 Northwest Ordinance school legislation required a portion of each township to set aside funding for a school facility. In 1821, 731 people were living in Mantua Township and realized that the education of their children was of primary importance. Residents gathered and unanimously voted to divide the township into five school districts. The township trustees were Elias Harmon, Amzi Atwater, Jonathan Foster, and Ezekiel Squire, clerk. The first Mantua Center District School No. 5 was conducted in a log house, and later in the Mantua Township Town Hall (#1) and at the Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17). In 1825, the state required townships to establish school districts supported by property tax. Legislation passed in 1853 made a common education free to all children and caused an increase in Mantua Township school attendance. A Lyceum literary society was formed the same year in 1853 and met at the Mantua Township Town Hall (#1) where the boys received training in public speaking. The Lyceum engaged in political, scientific, and theological debate, with the final decision left to the audience. Between 1855-1859, exhibitions were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church (#3) focused on various “studies, dialogues and recitation” and conducted to determine which district school was the most progressed. The 1861 Mantua Center District No. 5 School (#16) (now residential) was constructed as a new frame one-room schoolhouse with cupola centrally located at the southwest portion of the public common.¹⁰⁰ (Historic Images, Figure 13)

Portage County recognized the need for improvement in attendance and consistency in education. Following the advice of the state of Ohio for rural districts, Portage County began systematically transitioning from small rural school buildings to larger, more central facilities. Mantua Township first centralized in 1903, when arrangements were made to house the students in three of the public buildings on the Public Common (#4) including the Mantua Center District No. 5 School (#16), the

⁹⁷ *Portage County, Ohio Cemeteries Vol. III, Mantua Township and Mantua Village (Mantua Station) 1807-1992*. Ravenna: The Portage County Genealogical Society, 1992. Available at Mantua Historical Society.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ *The Democratic Press*, 5 August 1880. Harvey, Lynn. Mantua Center History Collection.

¹⁰⁰ Pfaff, 111-113; Mantua Center School, Mantua Center, Portage County, OH (NRHP# 13000682).

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Methodist Episcopal Church (Civic Center) (#3) and the Mantua Township Town Hall (#1) with the addition of the 12-hole 1907 Boy's Outhouse (#1a). Since the central location was now greater than a two-mile walk it had been to the smaller one-room schools, transportation was arranged for students throughout the township which also served to reduce the truancy rate. A larger student population benefitted the school and the community by allowing recitations to be more interesting, the creation of specialized groups such as sports teams and music groups, and a sense of local pride and socialization to develop.

A more important need for centralization focused on the curriculum of the school. Local school districts offered a high school curriculum, which had previously only been mostly offered in urban areas and subscription schools. In 1892, Ohio legislation required the teaching of "physical culture" as part of intermediate or secondary curricula. This necessitated construction of a gym, such as the one in the 1914 Mantua Center School (#9). Centralized schools also improved the quantity and quality of library resources. Portage County schools began to centralize and included the 1913 Paris Township School along with new Aurora, Mantua Center, Nelson, and Ravenna schools built in 1914, with other schools remodeled or rebuilt between 1915 and 1920. The concern for fire safety and the desire for sanitary fixtures were two additional factors. The 1914 Mantua Center School (#9) is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places as significant under Criterion A representing the evolution of the educational process in the small community of Mantua Center. The school continues to be a central social as well as an educational facility in the community.¹⁰¹

Conclusion

Connecticut Western Reserve rural crossroads communities became a pattern of development with settlements located at the geographic center of townships at intersecting primary roads, often reflecting characteristics of the New England towns from which settlers had migrated. A central public green or common served as a unifying element with religious, institutional, governmental, educational, or commercial buildings on the perimeter serving surrounding agriculturally based residential homesteads throughout the township. The public common, Mantua Township town hall, two churches and one house were built during the earliest years between 1835 and 1840 and included in the Mantua Center Historic District (NRHP# 74001607) as contributing resources.

The Mantua Center Boundary Increase is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a significant example of an early nineteenth century rural crossroads township center, representing the physical development of the crossroads township with centrally located community buildings surrounded by rural homesteads. Similar to other township centers such as

¹⁰¹ Mantua Center School, Mantua Center, Portage County, OH (NRHP# 13000682).

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Brookfield, Fowler and Mesopotamia, Mantau Center was preserved but lost out to further growth and development due to the layout of railroads in the 1850s and 1860s which bypassed these township centers. The Boundary Increase expands the district to include further examples of significant residential building types and Greek Revival architecture expressing the building traditions of the New England pioneers who settled in Mantua Center. The Boundary Increase adds the earliest homes of pioneer families extending the period of significance to begin in 1822 to include the 1822-1823 Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17) and 1824 Chester Reed House (#19). Historic resources within the boundary increase include additional early pioneer township houses and outbuildings, two cemeteries, a school and an outhouse. The 1914 Mantua Center School (NRHP# 13000682) is a contributing building to the historic district representing the educational needs of the community with the population growth and the need for a larger school, extending the period of significance to 1914, when it was constructed, replacing the school house near the public commons.

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National Register Nominations

Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley MPS, Summit County, OH (NRHP #64500474)

Brookfield Center Historic District, Brookfield, Trumbull County, OH (NRHP # 85002922)

Fowler Center Historic District, Trumbull County (NRHP #85002921)

Mantua Center District, Mantua Center, Portage County, OH (NRHP# 74001607)

Mantua Center School, Mantua Center, Portage County, OH (NRHP# 13000682)

Mesopotamia Village District, Trumbull County, OH (NRHP# 74001635)

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Mantua Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 35.97 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.312337 | Longitude: -81.250488 |
| 2. Latitude: 41.312625 | Longitude: -81.242726 |
| 3. Latitude: 41.308047 | Longitude: -81.242584 |
| 4. Latitude: 41.307916 | Longitude: -81.250263 |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

This Boundary Increase expands the district to include the entirety of central Mantua Center extending Mantua Center Road to the north of St. Rt 82 ending at Wayne Road, south at Diagonal Road and Eastlawn Cemetery, west along State Route 82 ending with Westlawn Cemetery, to the east ending at 4121 St. Rt 82 and includes School Lane. See attached Additional Documents: Location and Boundary Maps.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase includes properties located within the historic Mantua Center on 4103-3991 State Route 82, 11670-11755 Mantua Center Road, 11653-11677 Diagonal Road, and 11701-11715 School Lane constructed between the expanded period of significance of 1822 to 1914.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Wendy Naylor and Diana Wellman
organization: Naylor Wellman, LLC
street & number: 92 East Washington Street
city or town: Chagrin Falls state: OH zip code: 44022
e-mail: naylor@naylorwellman.com; wellman@naylorwellman.com
telephone: 440-247-8319
date: January 10, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase

City or Vicinity: Mantua Center

County: Portage

State: Ohio

Photographer: Wendy Hoge Naylor

Date Photographed: November-December 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0001): Mantua Township Town Hall (#1) and Disciples of Christ Church (#2), camera direction SE.
2. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0002): Mantua Township Town Hall (#1) and Boy's Outhouse (#1a), camera direction NE.
3. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0003): Mantua Township Town Hall (#1) and Boy's Outhouse (#1a), camera direction NE.
4. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0004): Disciples of Christ Church (#2), camera direction E.
5. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0005): Methodist Episcopal Church (Civic Center) (#3), camera direction SW.
6. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0006): Eastlawn Cemetery (#13), camera direction SW.
7. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0007): Eastlawn Cemetery (#13) and Stone Wall (#13a), camera direction NE.
8. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0008): Public Common (#4), camera direction N.
9. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase_0009): White-Carlton House (#5), camera direction W.

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10. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0010): 11696 Mantua Center Road Shed (#5a), camera direction SW.
11. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0011): Baker-Carlton House (#6), camera direction N.
12. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0012): View of Mantua Center Road from Wayne Road with Edward Plum House (#8), camera direction SE.
13. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0013): Edward Plum House (#8), camera direction SE.
14. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0014): View of Mantua Center Road from Wayne Road with Philip Bump House (#7), camera direction SW.
15. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0015): Philip Bump House (#7), camera direction NW.
16. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0016): Mantua Center School (#9), camera direction N.
17. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0017): View of Mantua Center Road with 11730 Mantua Center Road House (#10) and 11716 Mantua Center Road House (#11), camera direction NE.
18. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0018): View of State Route 82 and Mantua Center Road with White-Carlton House (#5) and Baker-Carlton House (#6), camera direction NW.
19. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0019): Danforth Davis House (#12), camera direction N.
20. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0020): 4121 State Route 82 Barn (#12a), camera direction NW.
21. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0021): 11715 School Lane House (#14) and 11701 School Lane House (#15), camera direction SW.
22. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0022): 11715 School Lane House (#14), camera direction SW.

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23. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0023): 11701 School Lane House (#15, camera direction W.
24. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0024): Mantua Center District No. 5 School (#16), camera direction NW.
25. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0025): View of Diagonal Road and Mantua Center District No. 5 School (#16), camera direction SW.
26. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0026): View of Crossroads Intersection of State Route 82, Mantua Center Road and Diagonal Road with Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17), 11677 Diagonal Road Barn (#17a) and 11677 Diagonal Road Shed (#17b), camera direction SW.
27. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0027): Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17), 11677 Diagonal Road Barn (#17a) and 11677 Diagonal Road Shed (#17b), camera direction SW.
28. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0028): Dr. Osmon Ferris House (#18), camera direction S.
29. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0029): Chester Reed House (#19) and Silo (#19a), camera direction SW.
30. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0030): Chester Reed House (#19) and State Route 82, camera direction SW.
31. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0031): Westlawn Cemetery (#20), camera direction N.
32. (OH_Portage_Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase _0032): Westlawn Cemetery Mausoleum (#20a), camera direction NW.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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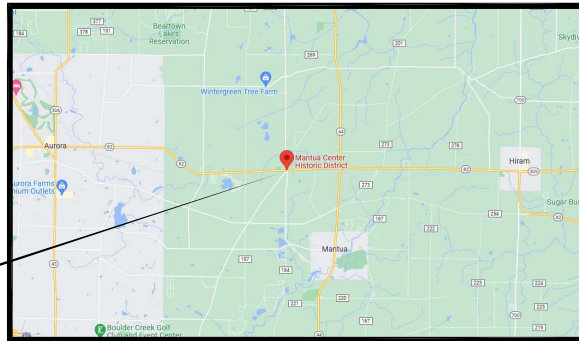
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Portage County, Ohio

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LOCATION MAP

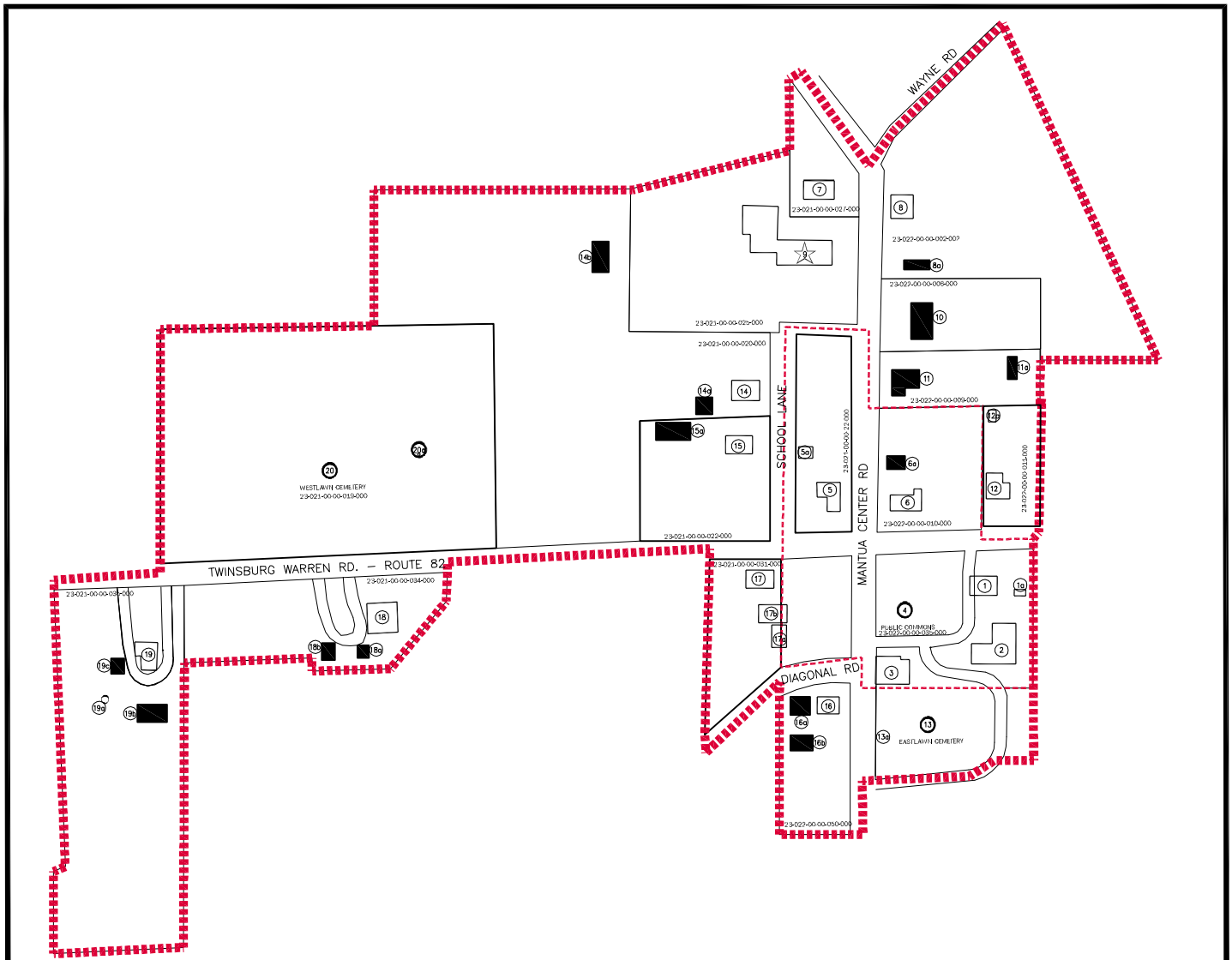


LEGEND SCALE: 1"= 600'

- 1974 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 2023 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- PARCEL BOUNDARY & NUMBER
XX-XXX-XX-XX-XXX-XXX
RESOURCE NUMBER
- # NATIONAL REGISTER BUILDINGS
- ★ NATIONAL REGISTER BUILDINGS
- XX PHOTO-KEY ARROW

MARCH 2023

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT



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Portage County, Ohio

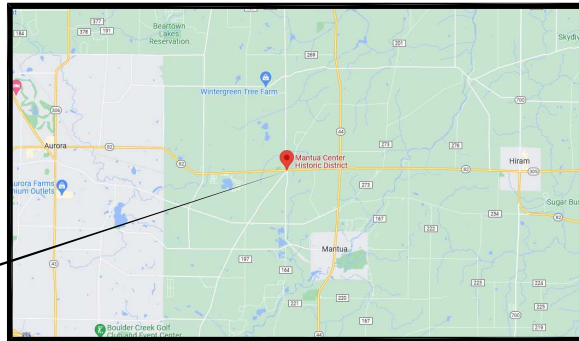
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LOCATION MAP

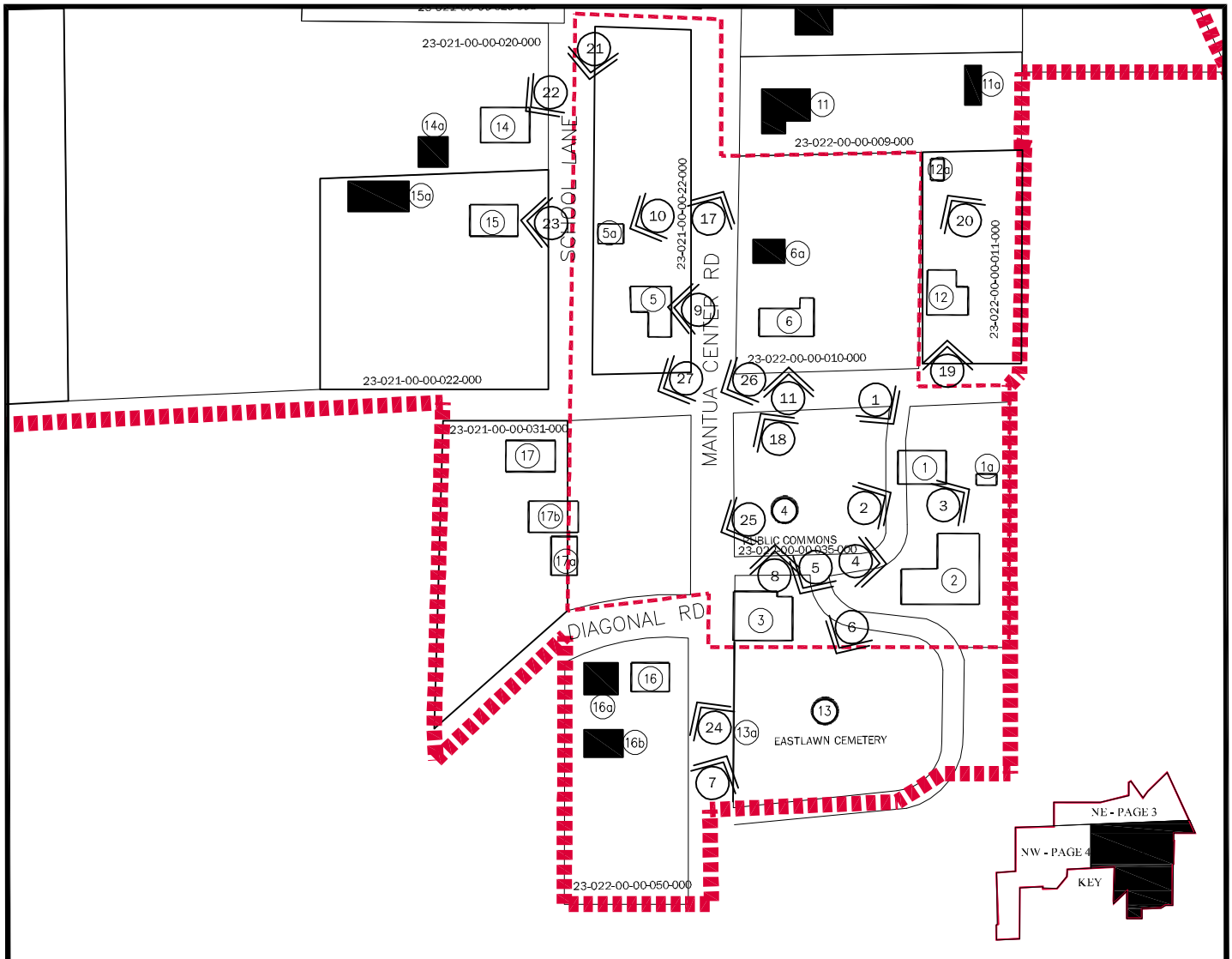


LEGEND

- 1974 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 2023 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- PARCEL BOUNDARY & NUMBER
XX-XXX-XX-XX-XXX-XXX
RESOURCE NUMBER
- # NATIONAL REGISTER BUILDINGS
- ★ NATIONAL REGISTER BUILDINGS
- XX PHOTO-KEY ARROW

MARCH 2023

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT



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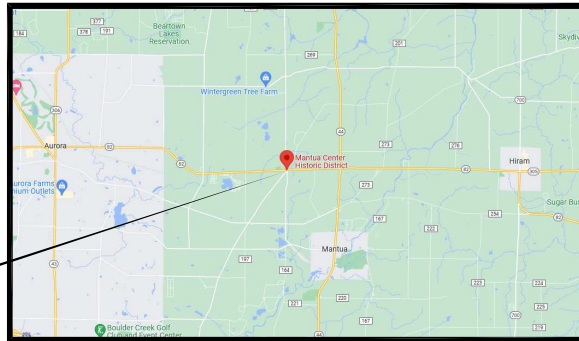
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LOCATION MAP

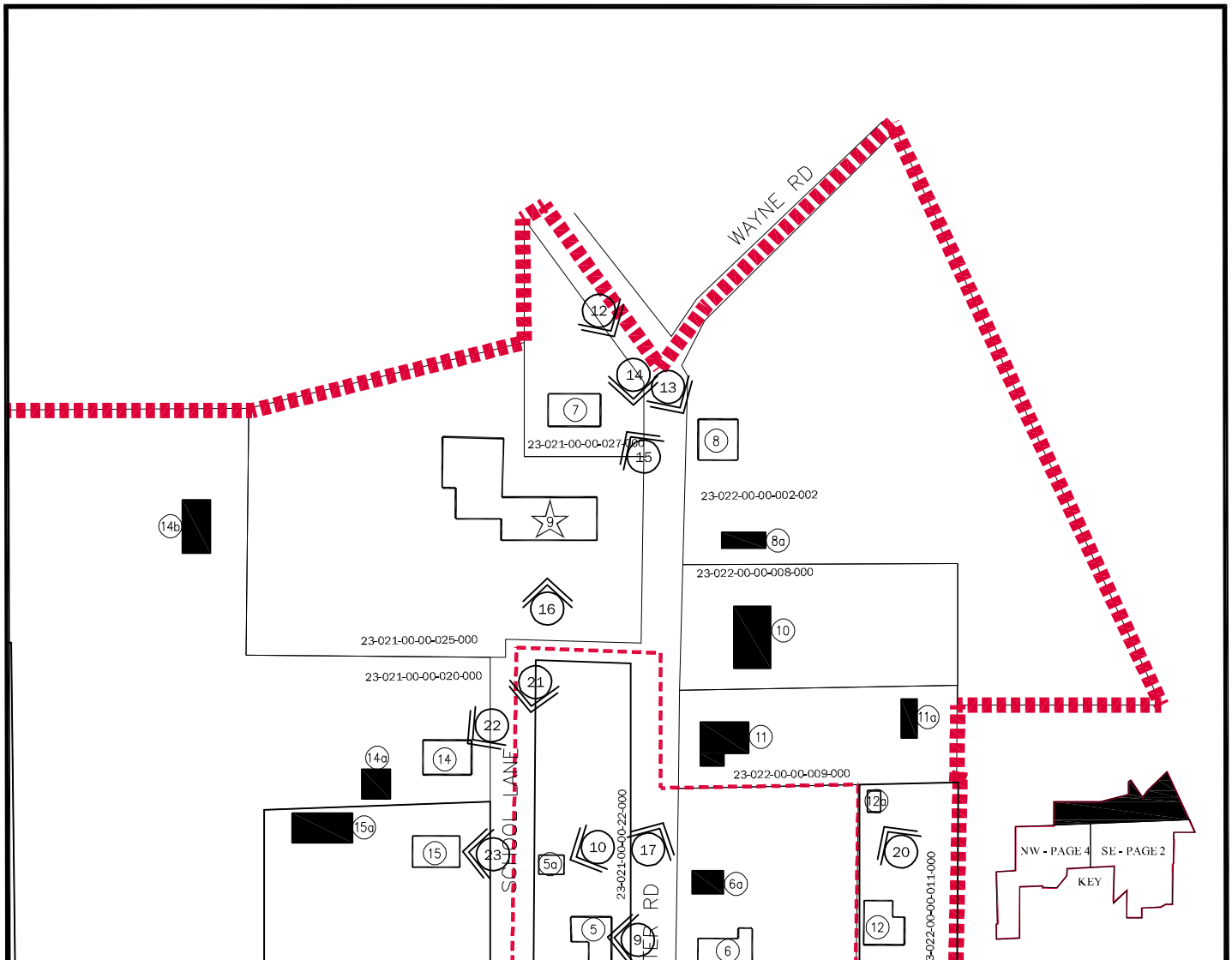


LEGEND

- 1974 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 2023 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- PARCEL BOUNDARY & NUMBER
XX-XXX-XX-XX-XXX-XXX
RESOURCE NUMBER
- # NATIONAL REGISTER BUILDINGS
- ☆ NATIONAL REGISTER BUILDINGS
- XX PHOTO-KEY ARROW

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Portage County, Ohio

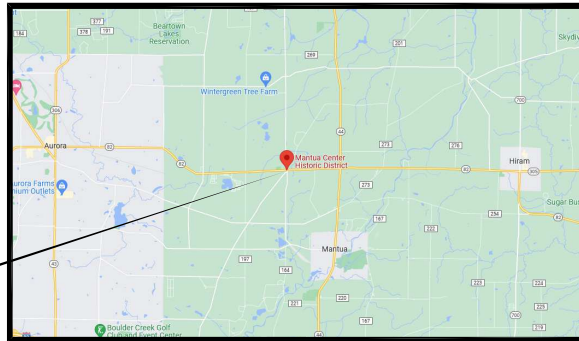
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LOCATION MAP



LEGEND

----- 1974 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
 ■■■■■■■■ 2023 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY

--- PARCEL BOUNDARY & NUMBER
 XX-XXX-XX-XX-XXX-XXX
 RESOURCE NUMBER

⊕ NATIONAL REGISTER BUILDINGS

➤ PHOTO-KEY ARROW

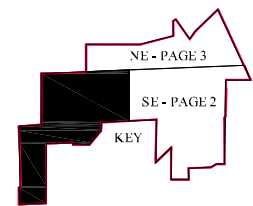
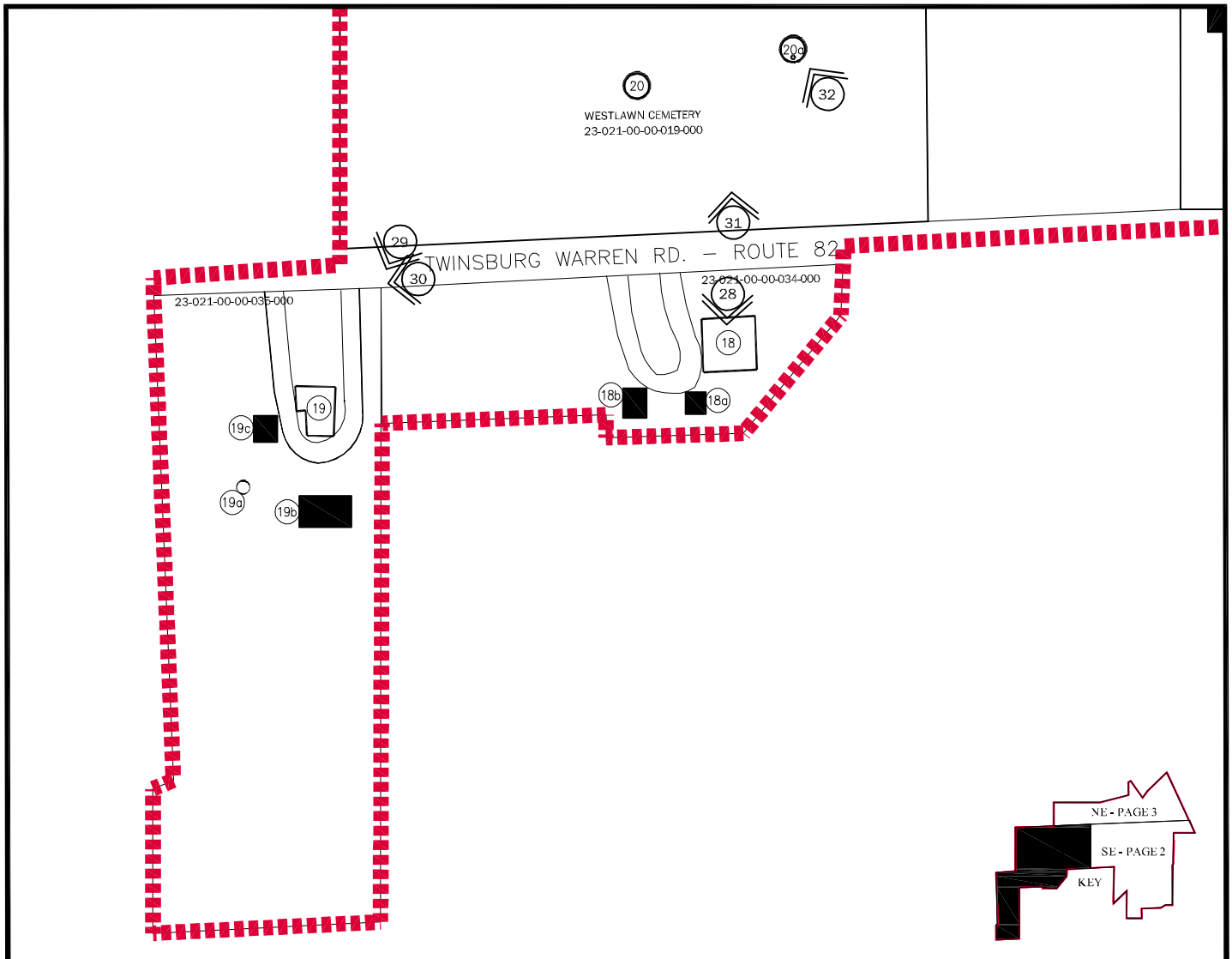
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Figure 1. Map of the Western Reserve, 1826, Mantua Township outlined in black

Source: Cleveland Public Library Map Collection



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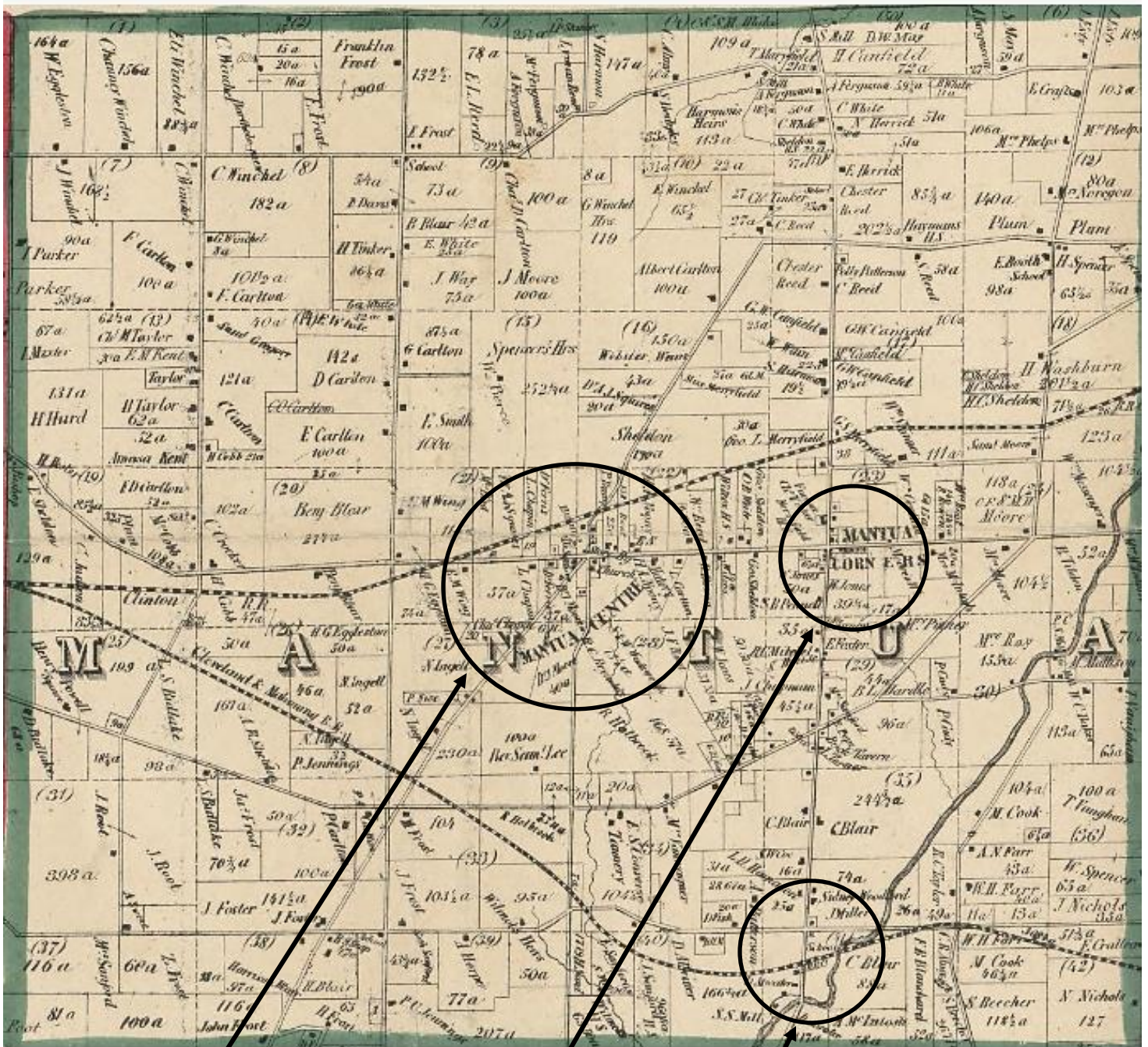
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Figure 2. Map of Mantua Township, 1857

Source: Map of Portage County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Matthews and Trainor Publishers, 1857.
Library of Congress.



Mantua Center

Mantua Corners

Mantua Station
(Mantua Village)

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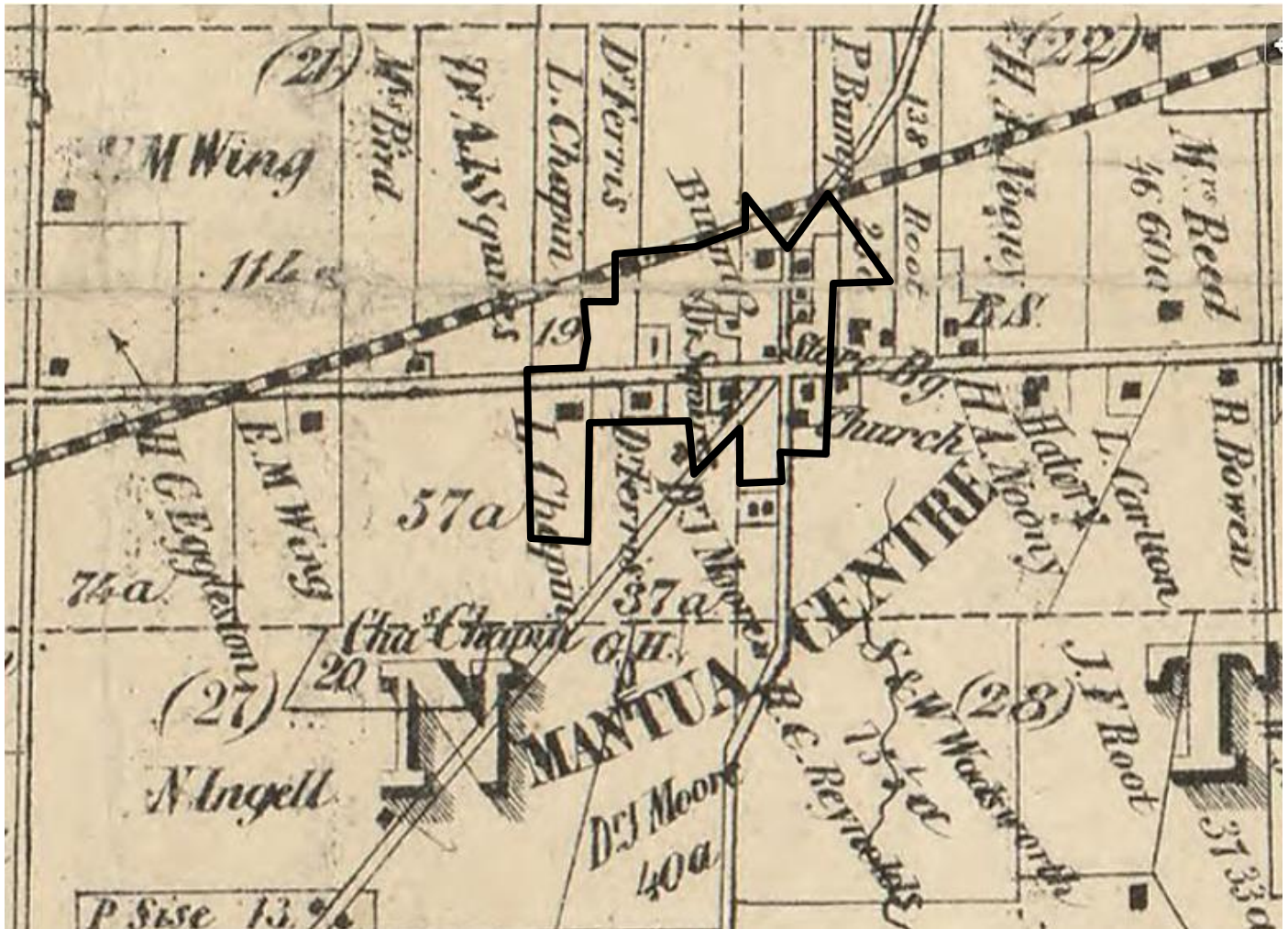
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Figure 3. Map of Mantua Center, 1857
The Mantua Center Historic District is roughly outlined in black

Source: Map of Portage County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Matthews and Trainor Publishers, 1857.
Library of Congress.



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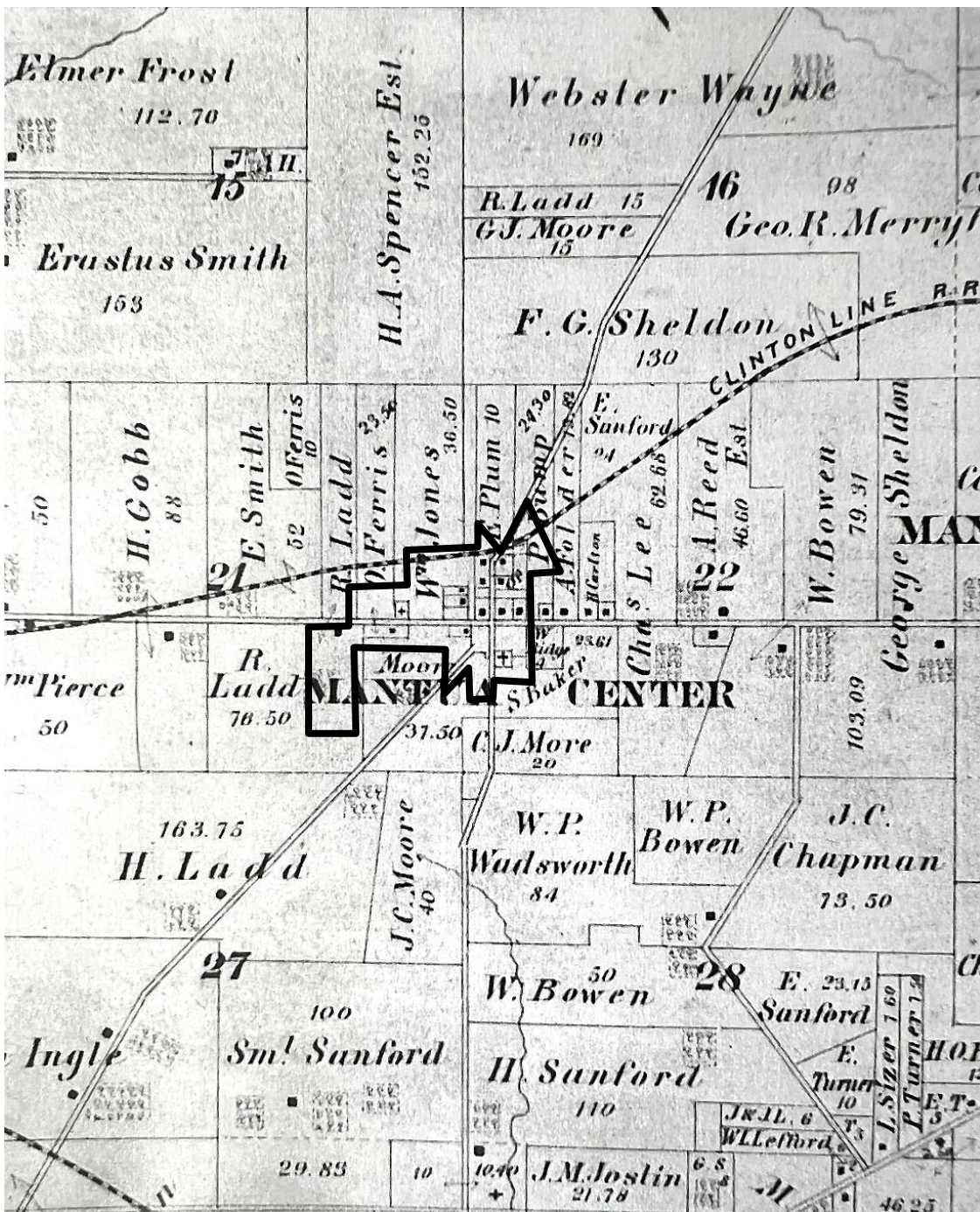
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Figure 4. Map of Mantua Township, 1874
The Mantua Center Historic District is roughly outlined in black

Source: Combination Atlas Map of Portage County, Ohio. Chicago: L.H. Everts, 1874.



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Figure 5. Map of Mantua Center, 1874
The Mantua Center Historic District is roughly outlined in black

Source: Combination Atlas Map of Portage County, Ohio. Chicago: L.H. Everts, 1874.



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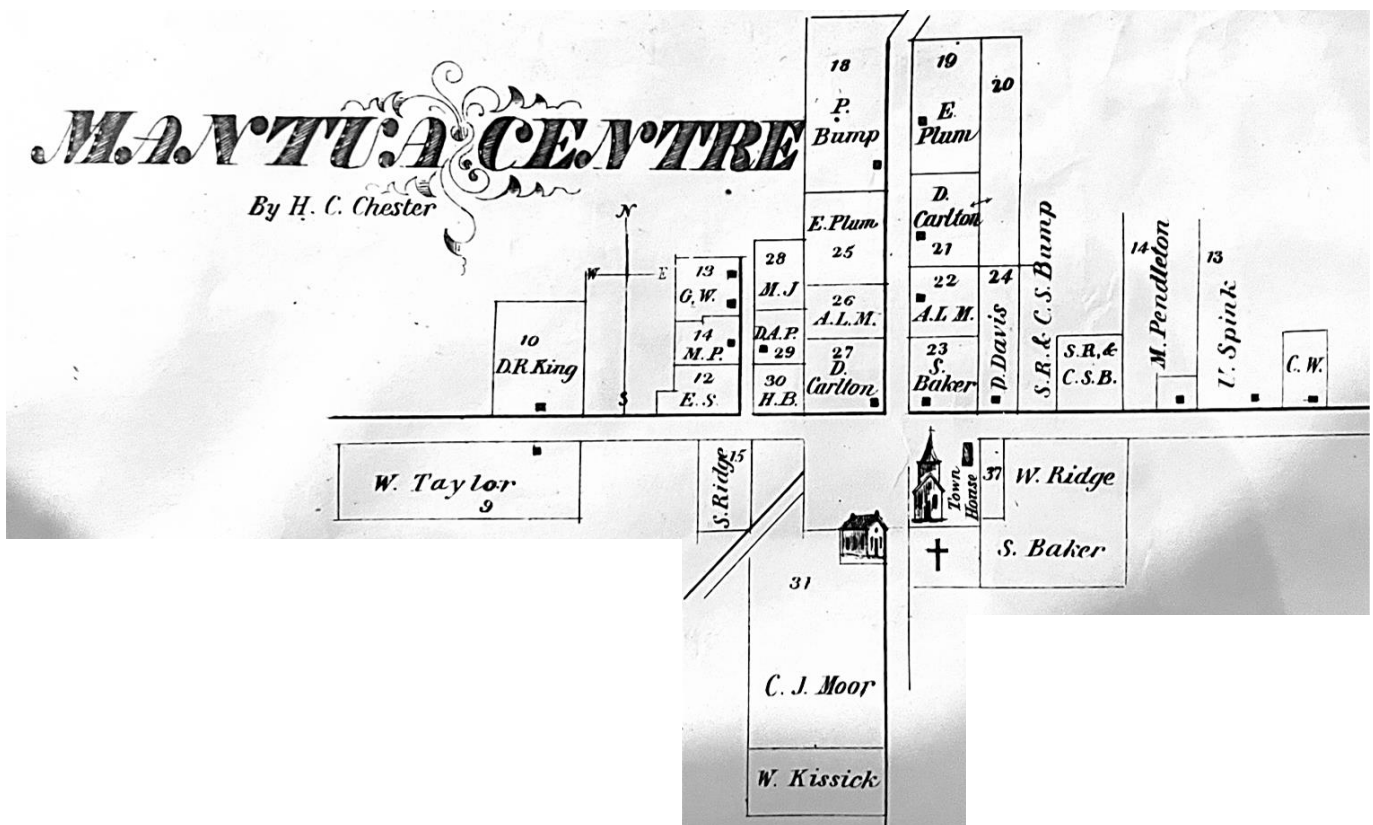
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Figure 6. Portage County, Mantua Center Land Ownership Map, 1874

Source: Mantua Historical Society; U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918.
Available at Ancestry.com



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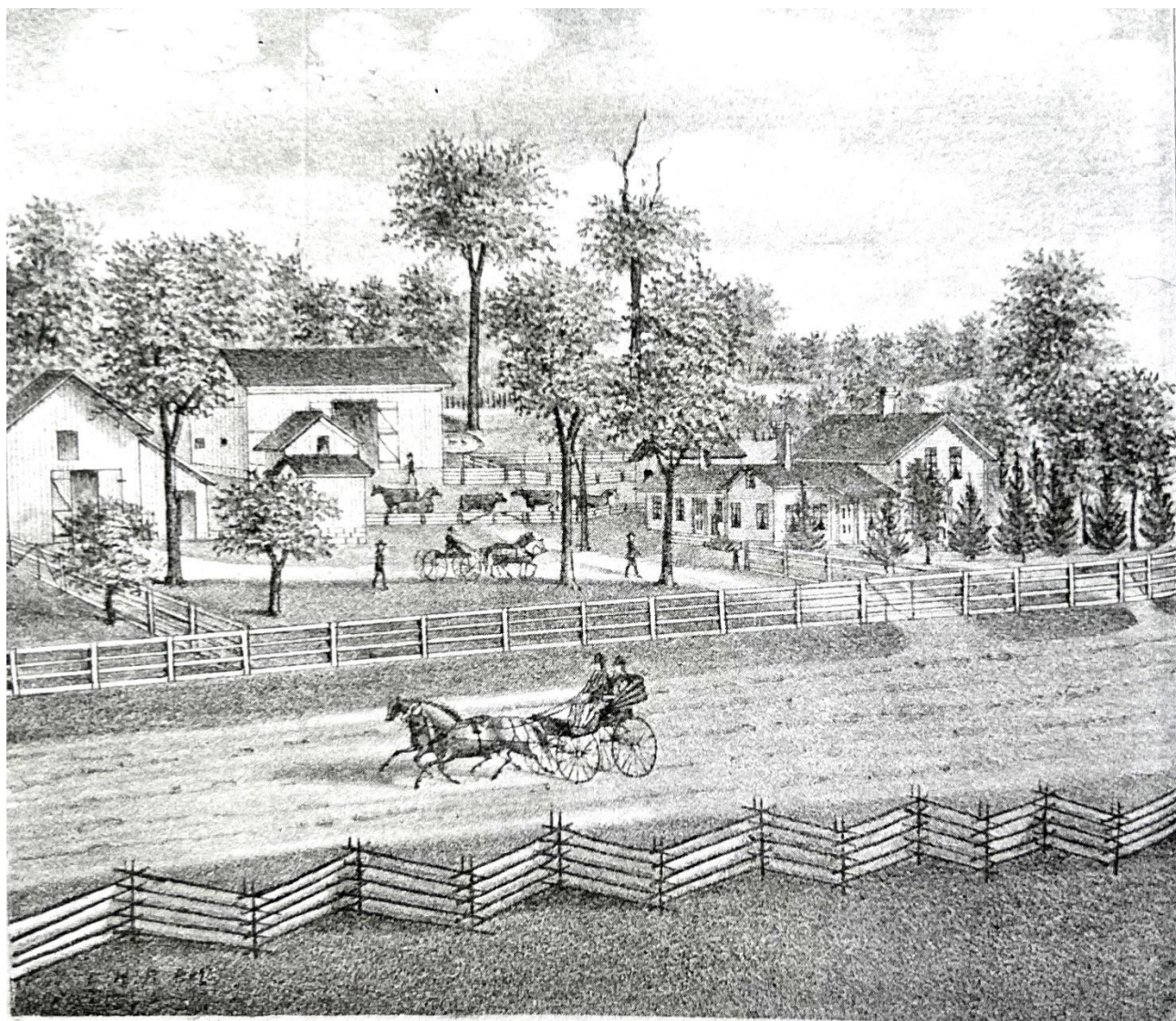
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Figure 7. Residence of Horace Tinker, Lot 8 Mantua Township, 1874

Source: Combination Atlas Map of Portage County, Ohio. Chicago: L.H. Everts, 1874.



RES. OF HORACE TINKER,
LOT 8 MANTUA TP. PORTAGE CO. OHIO.

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Boundary Increase
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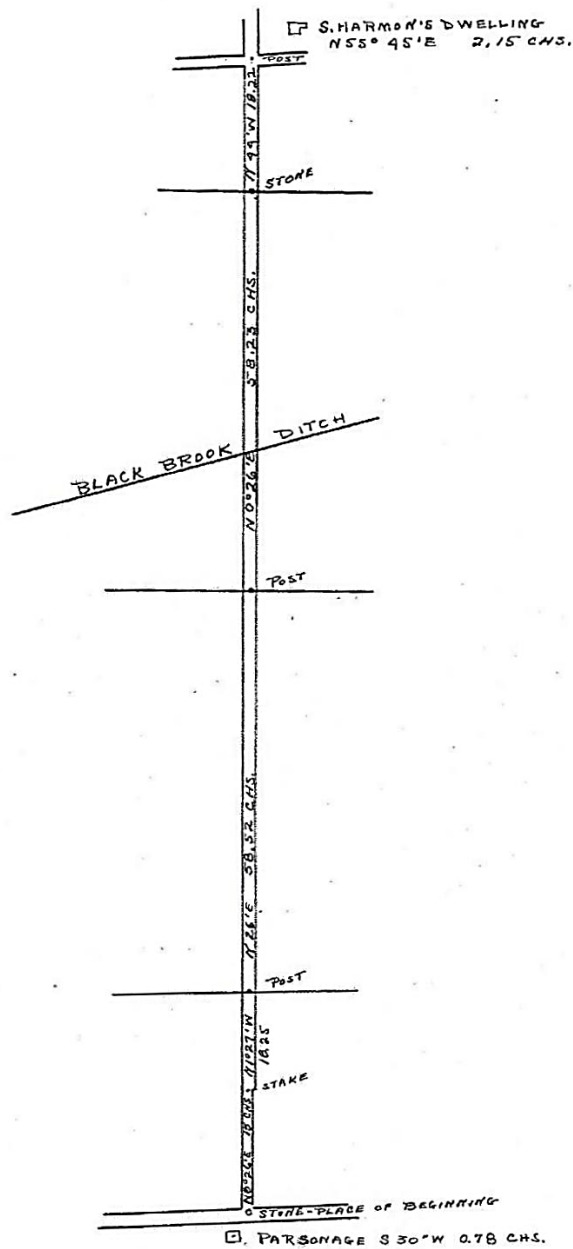
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Figure 8. Portage County Survey of north portion of Mantua Center Road connecting to Auburn Township, 1879

Source: Harvey, Lynn. Mantua Center History Collection



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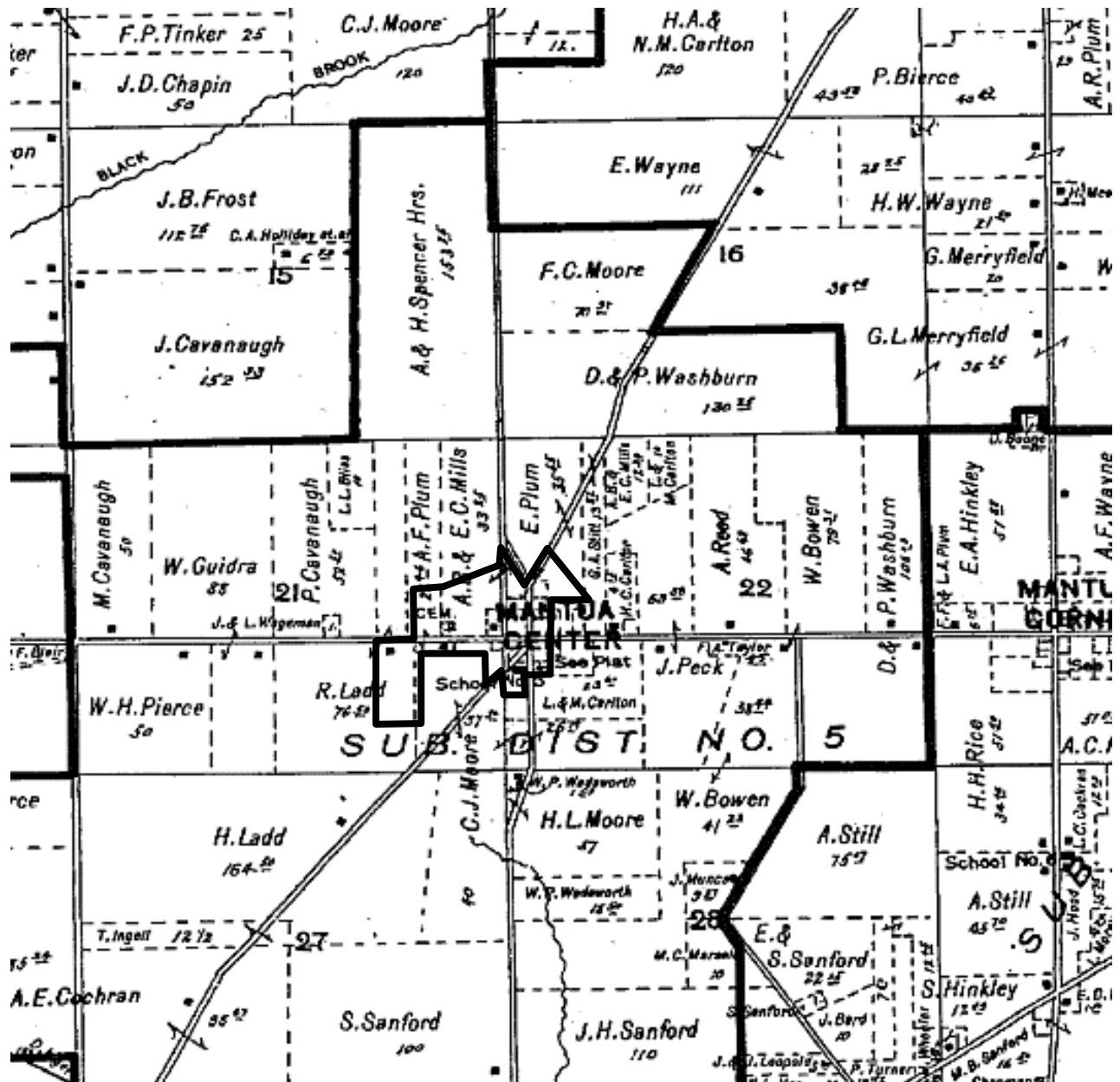
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Figure 9. Map of Mantua Township, 1900
The Mantua Center Historic District is roughly outlined in black

Source: Atlas of Portage County, Ohio. Cleveland: H.B. Stranahan & Co., 1900. Mantua



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Boundary Increase
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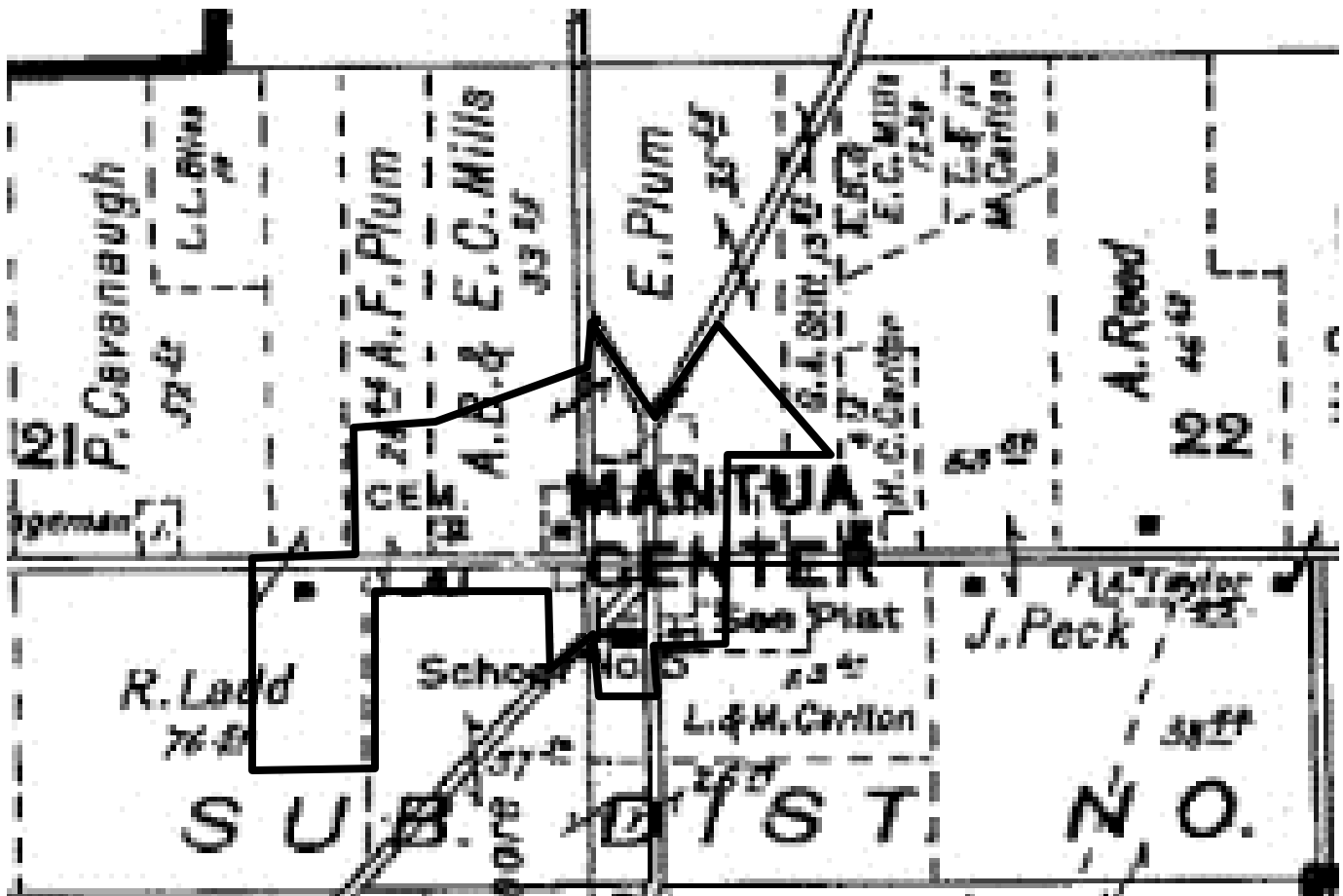
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Figure 10. Map of Mantua Center, 1900
The Mantua Center Historic District is roughly outlined in black

Source: Atlas of Portage County, Ohio. Cleveland: H.B. Stranahan & Co., 1900. Mantua



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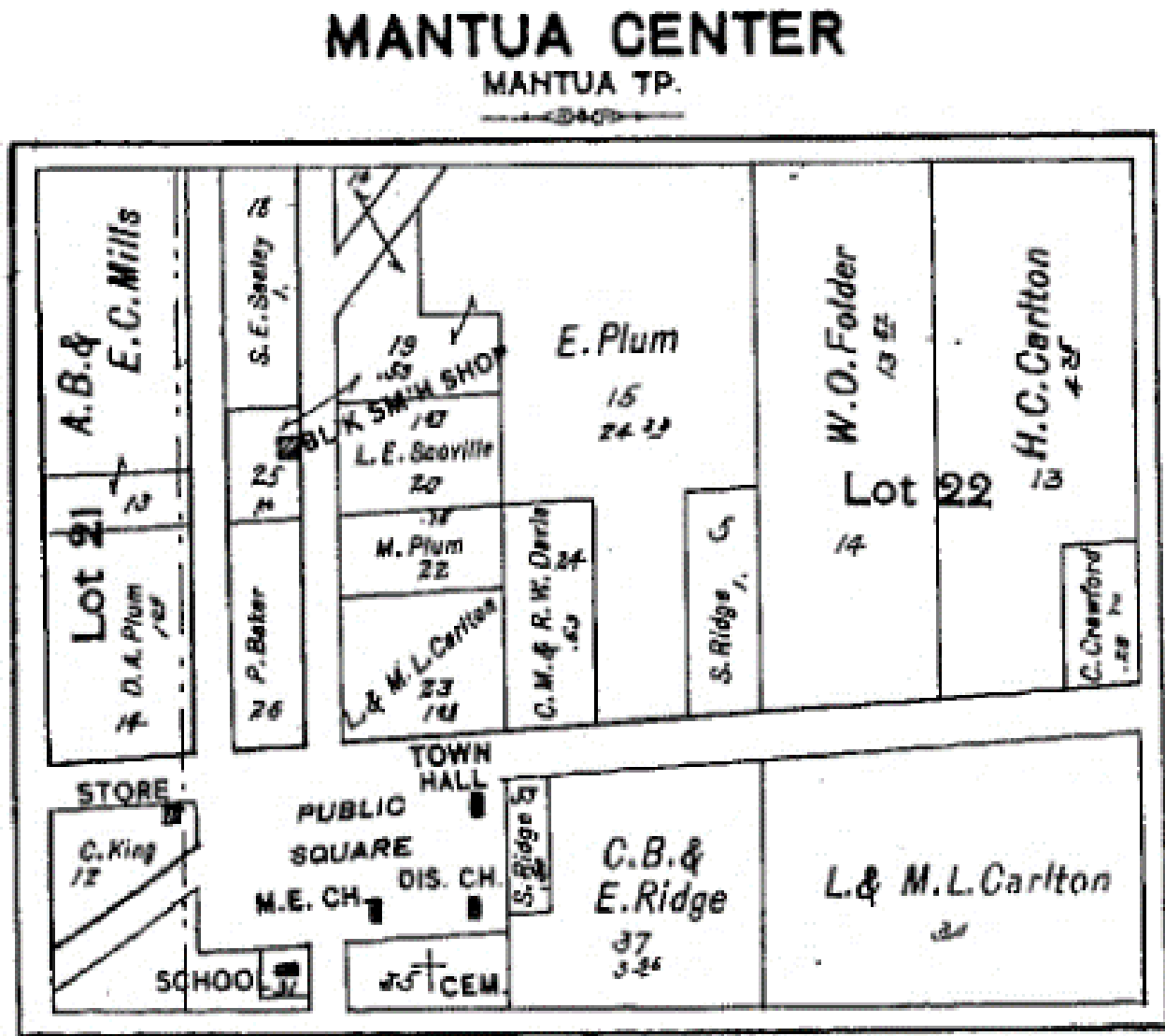
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Figure 11. Map of Mantua Center, 1900

Source: Atlas of Portage County, Ohio. Cleveland: H.B. Stranahan & Co., 1900. Mantua
Historical Society



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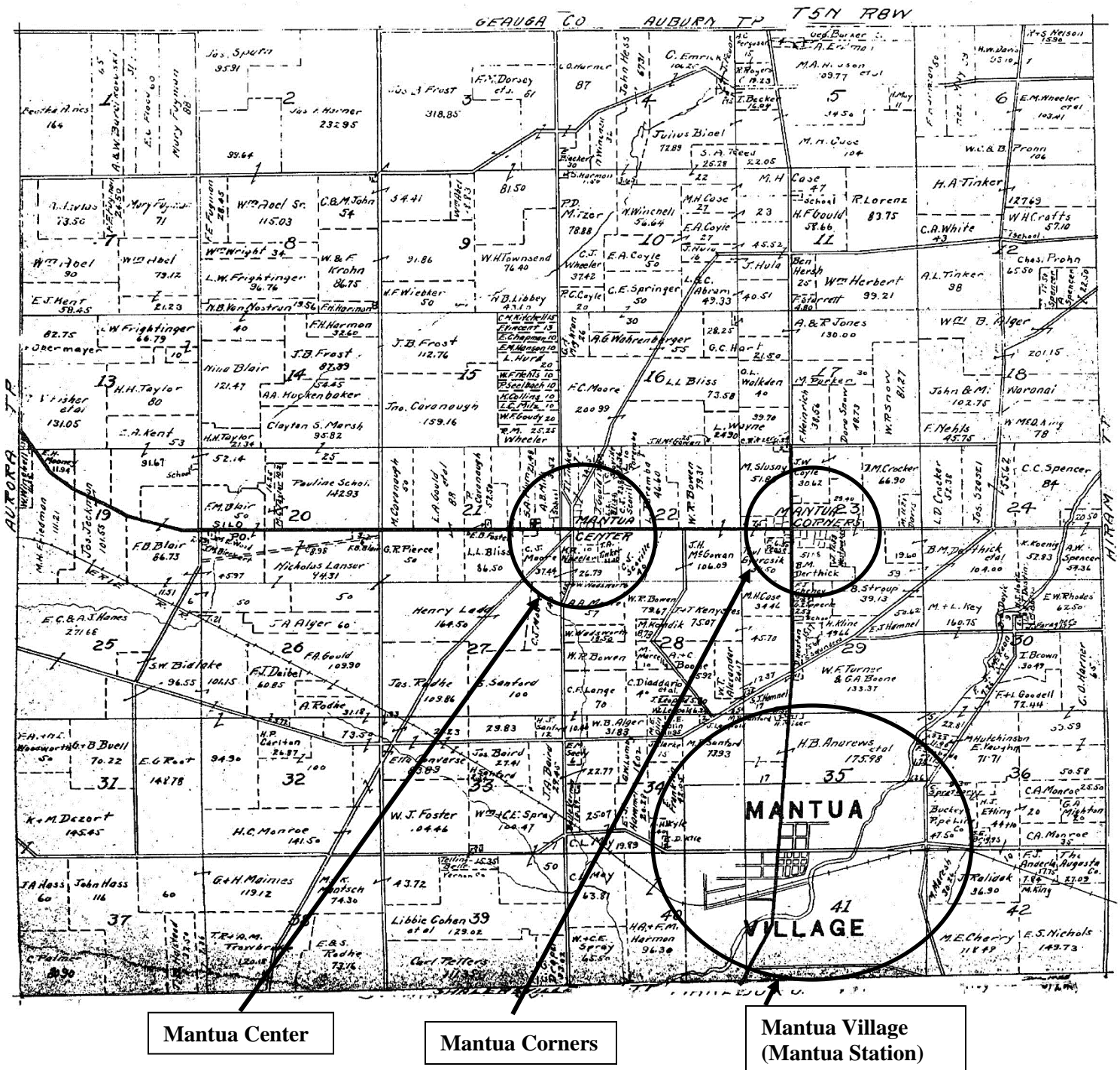
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Figure 12. Map of Mantua Township, 1924

Source: Portage County Plat Book, 1924. Ohio History Connection Historic Atlases.



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Portage County, Ohio**

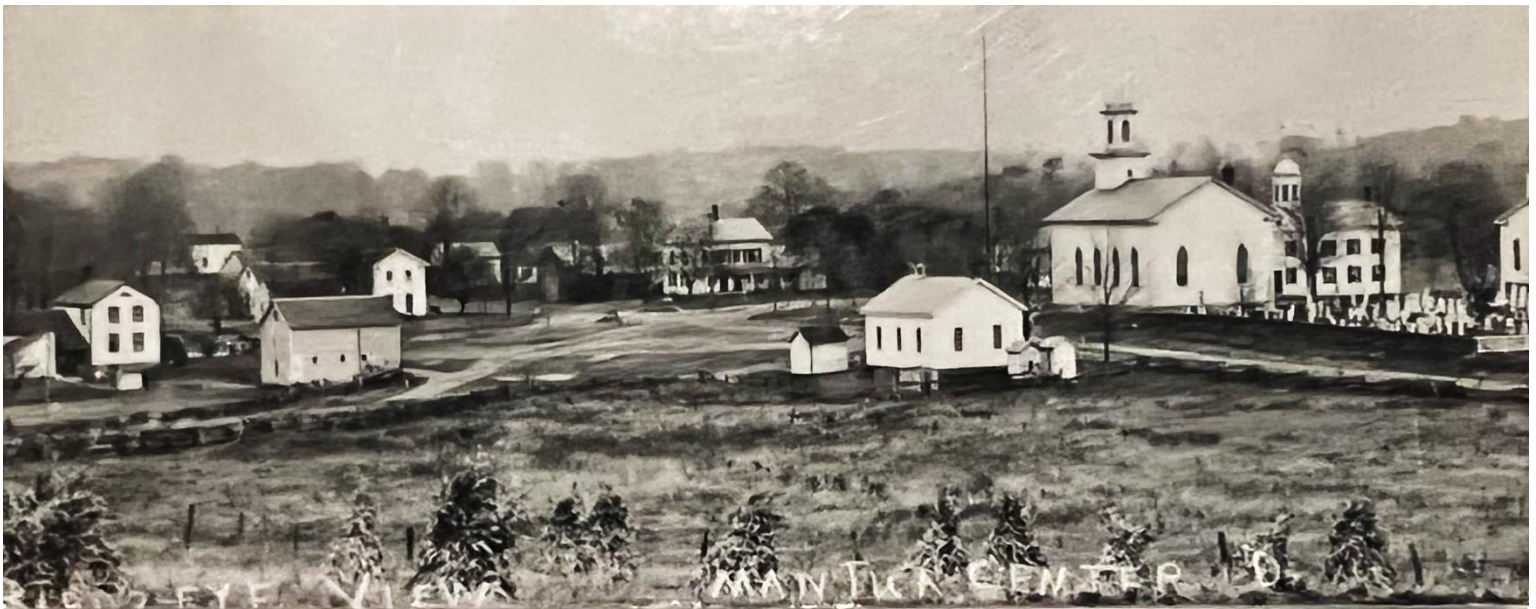
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**Figure 13. Birdseye View of Mantua Center, intersection of State Route 82, Mantua Center Road and Diagonal Road, Photo undated
View facing North**

Source: Mantua Historical Society



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Portage County, Ohio

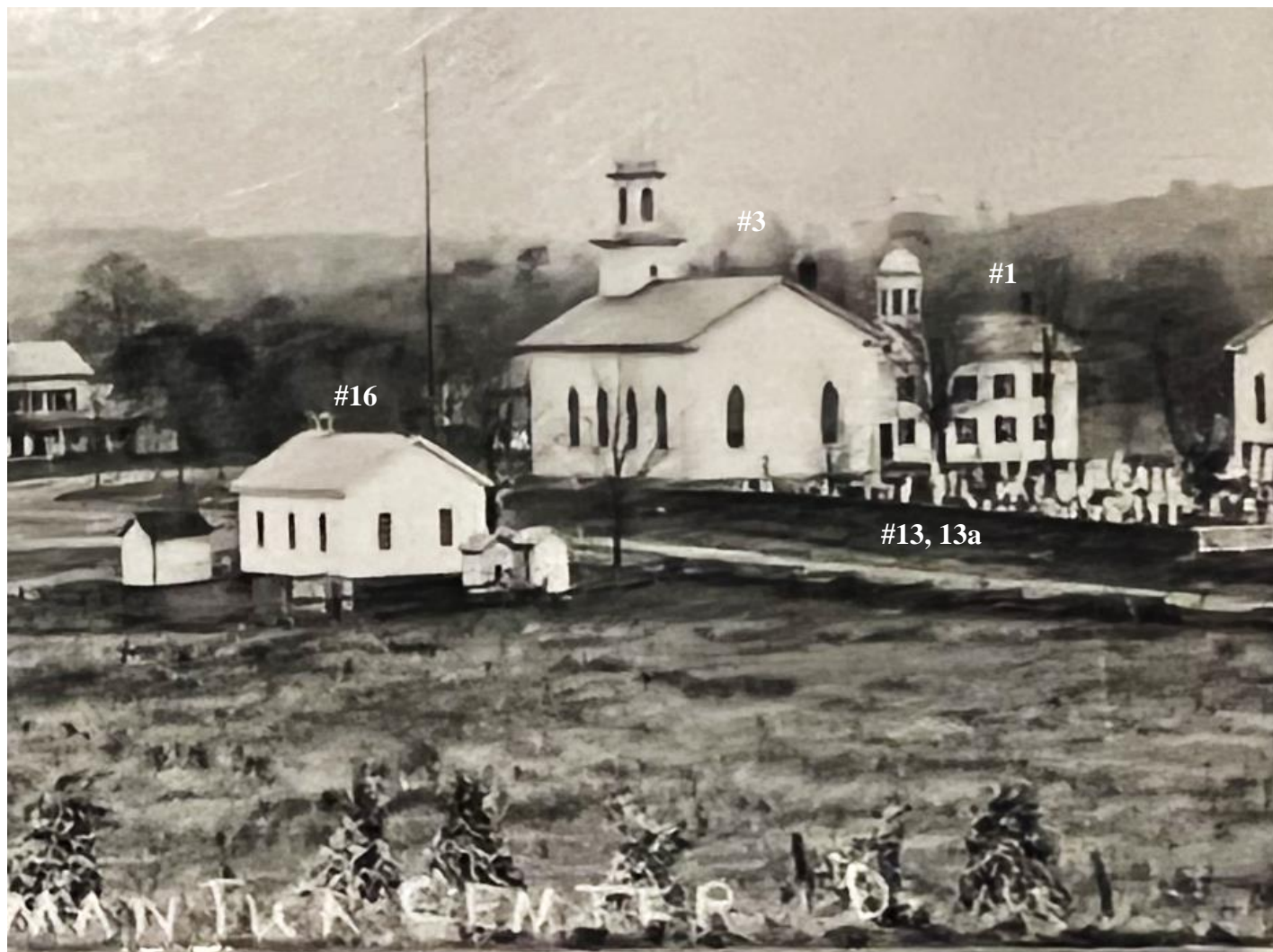
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Figure 14. Mantua Center District No. 5 School (#16), Methodist Episcopal Church (#3), Eastlawn Cemetary & Wall (#13 & 13a) and Mantua Township Town Hall (#1), Photo undated View facing northeast

Source: Mantua Historical Society



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**Figure 15. White-Carlton House (#5), Baker-Carlton House (#6), Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew J. Squire House (#17) & Barn (#17a) , Photo undated
View facing northeast**

Source: Mantua Historical Society



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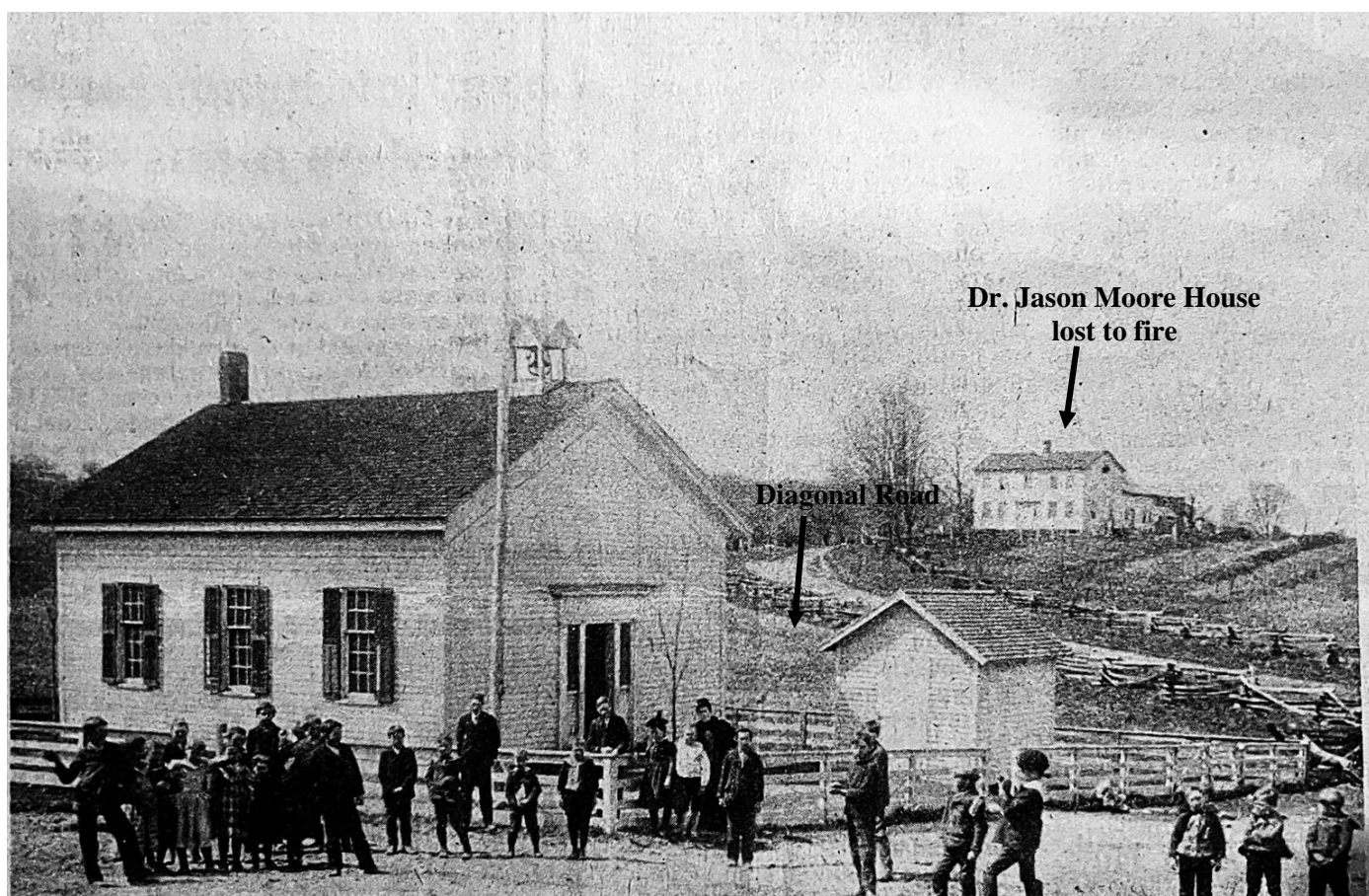
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**Figure 16. Mantua Center District No. 5 School (# 16), 11677 Diagonal Road, Photo ca. 1875
Dr. Jason Moore House, off Diagonal Road in the background, lost to fire**

Source: The Record Courier, Mantua Historical Society Archives



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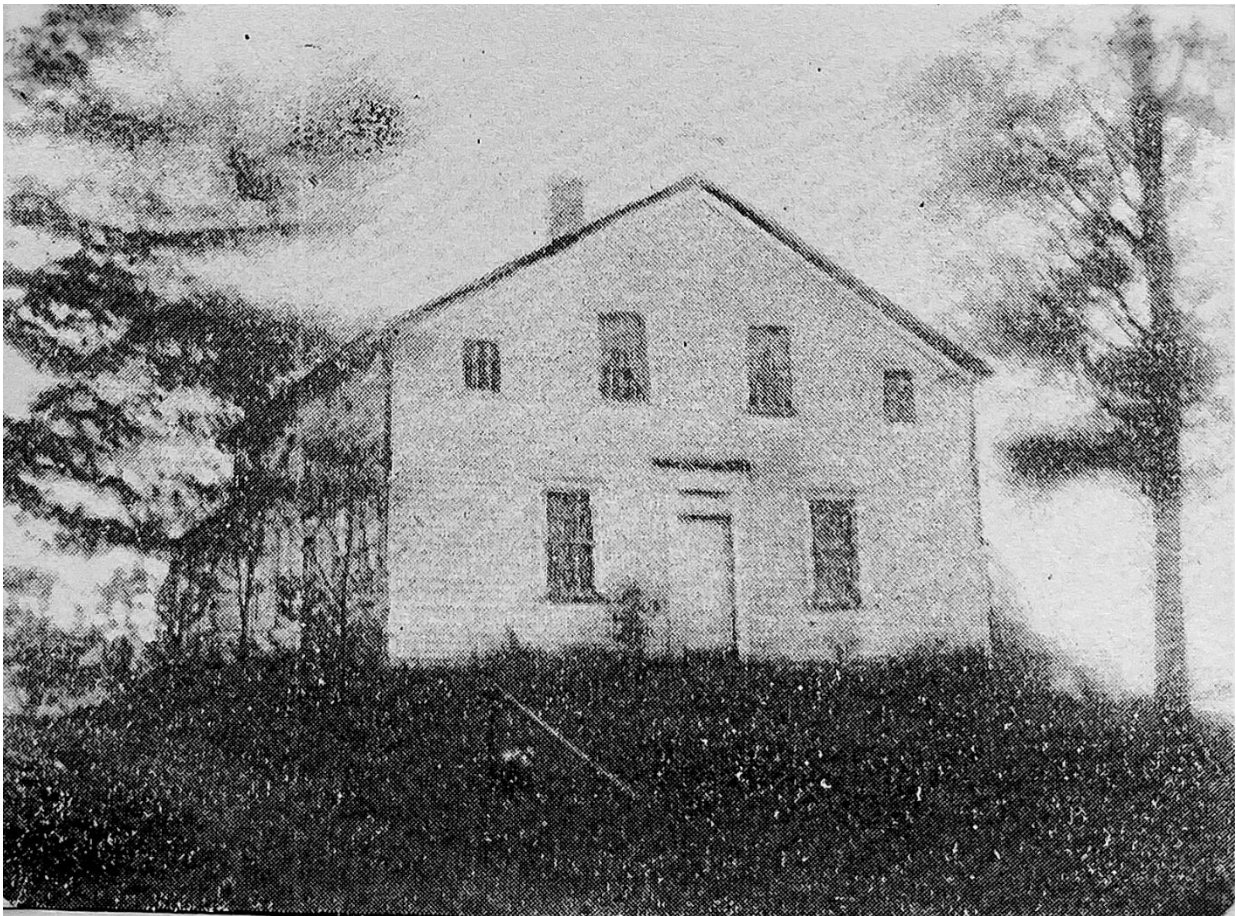
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Figure 17. Philip Bump House (#7), 11755 Mantua Center Road, Photo undated

Source: Ling, Adelaide. *Mantua Homecoming 1799-1909*. Available at Mantua Historical Society, 56



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Figure 18. Philip Bump House (#7), 11755 Mantua Center Road, Photo ca. 1980

Source: Mantua Historical Society



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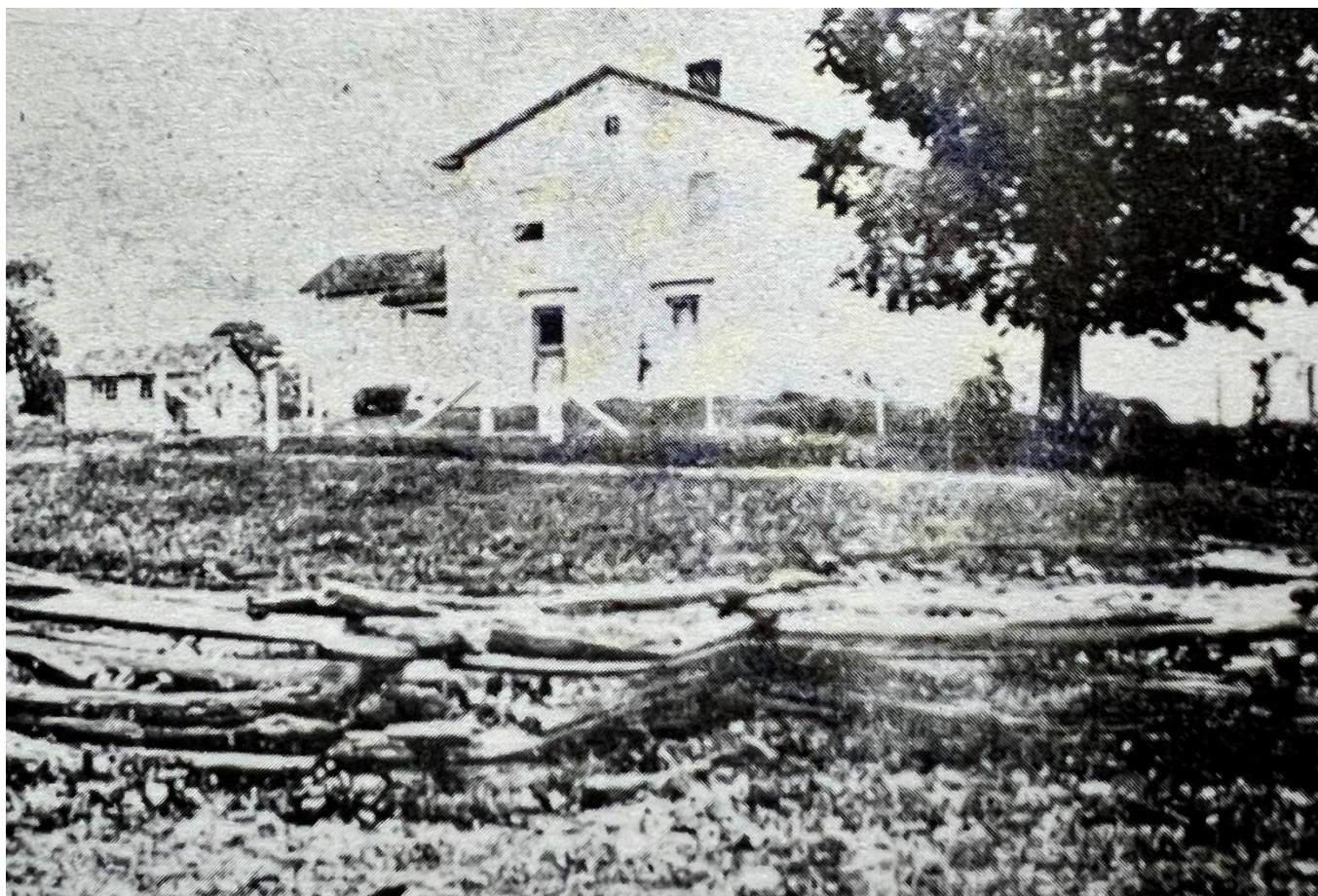
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**Figure 19. 1822-23 Drs. Ezekiel and Andrew Squire House (#17), 11677 Diagonal Road, Photo undated
Parsonage House of Cheney J. Moore from 1873 – 1912
View facing north from Diagonal Road,**

Source: Ling, Adelaide. *Mantua Homecoming 1799-1909*. Available at Mantua Historical Society, 56



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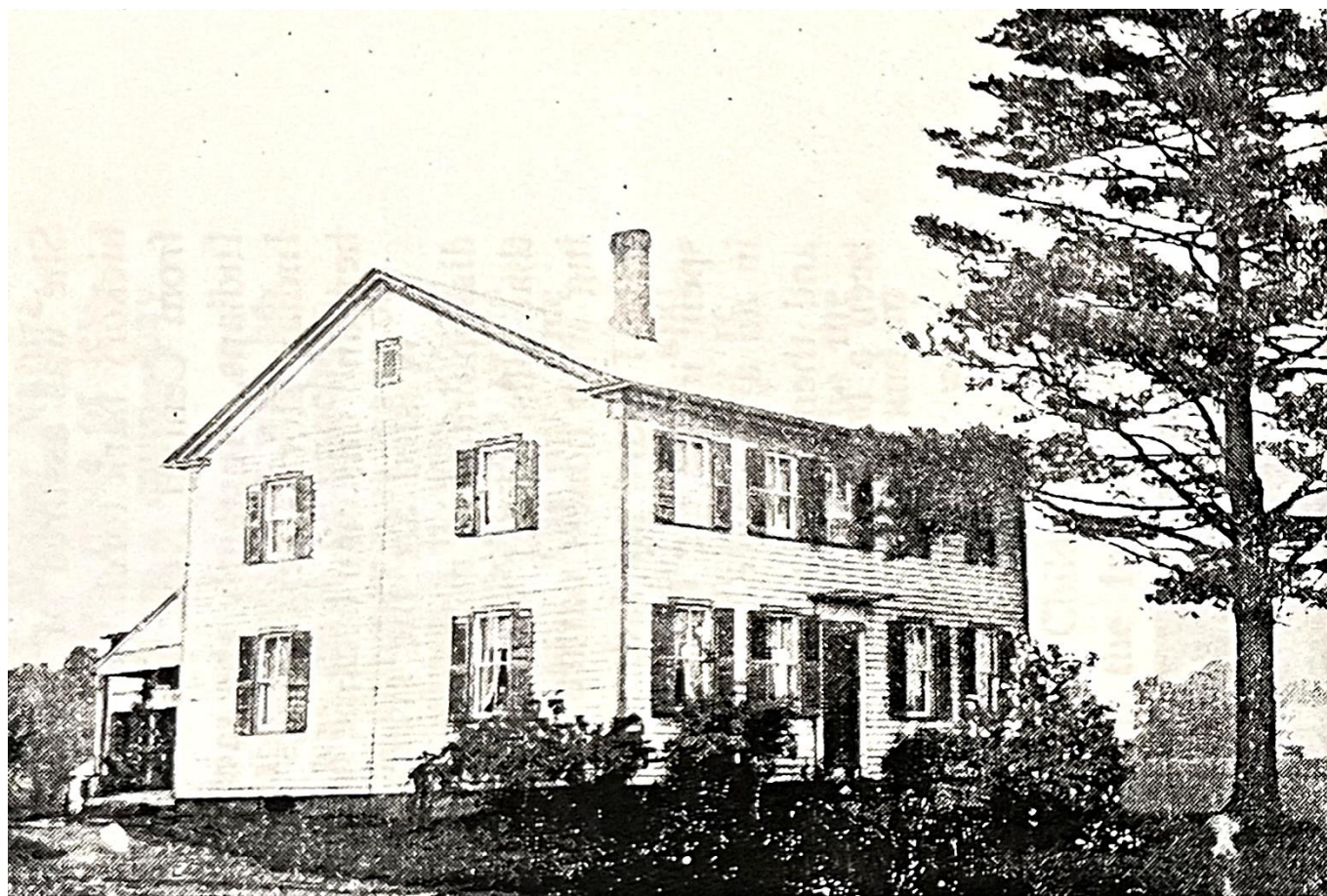
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Figure 20. Chester Reed House, 3952 State Route 82 (#19)

Source: Ling, Adelaide. *Mantua Homecoming 1799-1909*. Available at Mantua Historical Society, 56



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Figure 21. Mantua Center School, 11741 Mantua Center Rd., (#9) and Philip Bump House, 11795 Mantua Center Rd. (#7), Photo ca.1915

Source: Mantua Township Building Assessment



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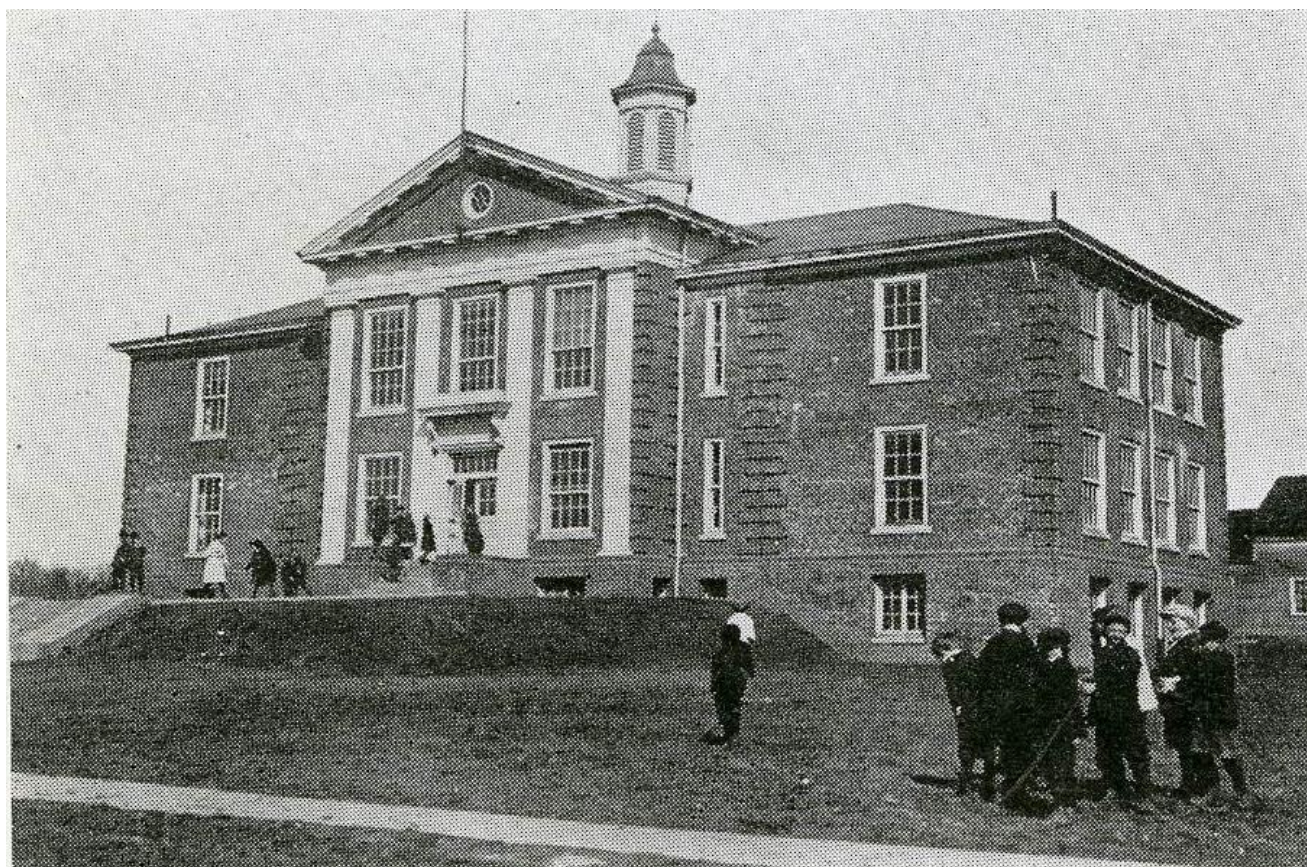
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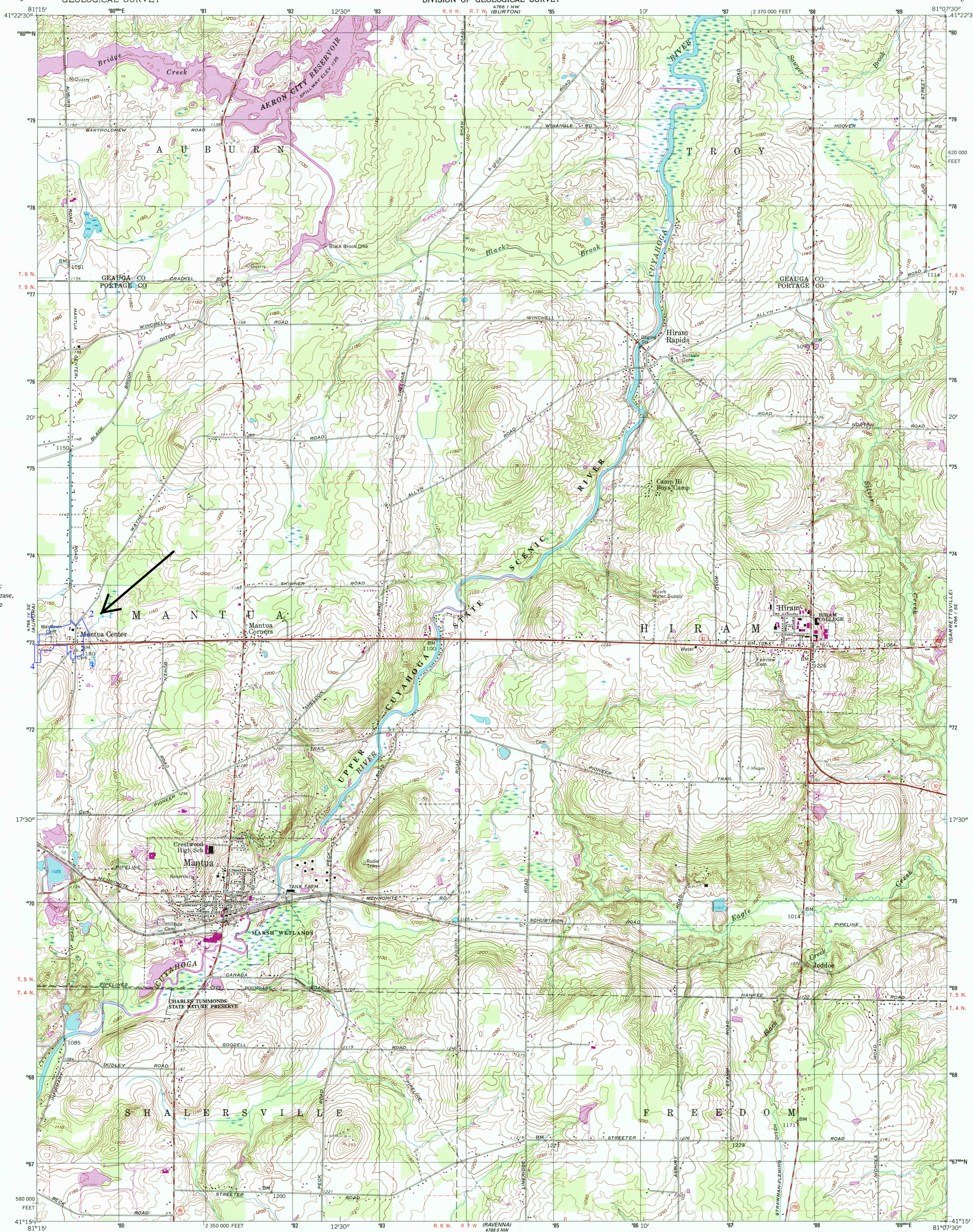
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Figure 22. Mantua Center School, 11741 Mantua Center Rd., (#9), Photo 1920

Source: *The Speedometer*, March 1920, Portage County Public Schools, Ravenna, Ohio



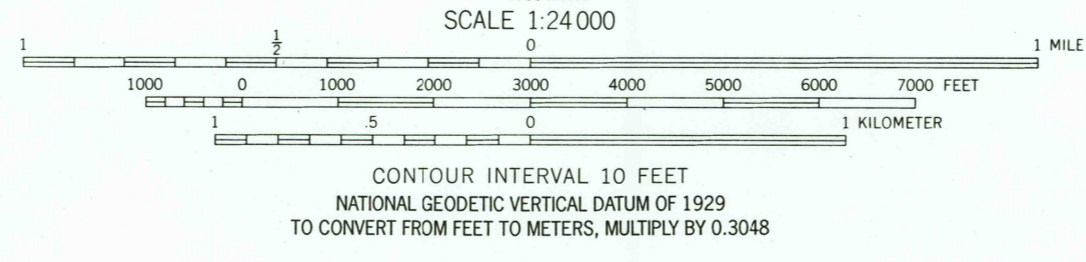
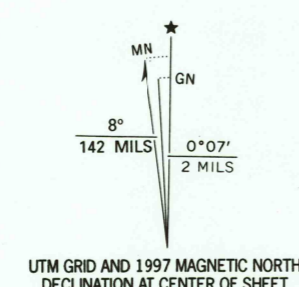


Mantua Center Historic District Boundary Increase, Mantua Center, Portage County, Ohio

1. Lat 41.312337
Long -81.250488
2. Lat 41.312625
Long -81.242726
3. Lat 41.308047
Long -81.242584
4. Lat 41.307916
Long -81.250263

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Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1952. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1970. Photoinspected using imagery dated 1994; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1959 boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1997.
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Ohio coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic).
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.
Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map. Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225. A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

MANTUA, OHIO
1994
NIMA 4766 I SW-SERIES V852

